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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-188* *28 September 1994*

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Regrets Iran's Stand on Gulf Islands

*NC2709130094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Arab League has expressed regret at the recent escalation in Iran's tone on settling the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over Iran's occupation of three UAE islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa.

The Arab League's official spokesman, Counsellor Tal'at Hamid, said the threat to resort to military solutions to the issue will increase tension in this sensitive part of the world. He added that these statements are not compatible with the existing desire to improve Arab-Iranian relations.

In press statements today, he said the UAE's recent proposal to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice is in line with international law and the UN Charter and is an enlightened, rational approach to resolving disputes between countries by peaceful means. He added that the Arab League backs the UAE's recent initiative that primarily aims to create a favorable climate to maintain friendly ties between Iran and the Arab countries. He noted that the threat to use force does not serve Arab intentions to settle disputes by peaceful means.

He said Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is currently holding intense contacts with Arab and foreign delegations taking part in the UN General Assembly session to support the UAE stand and urge Iran to solve the issue peacefully in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, which stress the need to resolve disputes by peaceful means.

### League Denounces Israeli Decision on Settlements

*NC2709153994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat has expressed its deep concern over a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's spokesman on building new houses in a settlement inside the West Bank's border and on an Israeli intention to resume construction in other settlements.

The Arab League General Secretariat said it strongly denounces this decision as a flagrant violation of the text and spirit of the accords Israel signed with the Palestinian National Authority. The secretariat added that the decision also defies and shows disdain for resolutions of international legitimacy on the illegality of changing the demographic and natural structure of the occupied territories and on a commitment to implement every UN resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principle of land for peace, essentially on the Jerusalem issue. [sentence as heard]

The General Secretariat warned of the consequences of the Israeli occupation authorities' persistence in defying international resolutions and accords. It urged the international community, represented by the Security Council, to force Israel to stop implementing its plots to circumvent resolutions of international legitimacy and take them out of context and derail the peace process accepted by the Arab countries in their Resolution 5092.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Israeli Decision on Settlement Building Criticized

#### Arab League Envoy on 'Serious Step'

*NC2709135594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab league and Palestine National Council secretary, has stressed that Israel's decision to lift the freeze on building settlements and to expand some constitutes a serious step targeted against the peace process. It also runs counter to Israeli pledges given to the Palestinian side and the United States in this regard, Subayh added.

In a statement to MENA today, Subayh said this new Israeli step represents a direct threat against the peace process and violates every international resolution and norm calling for dismantling settlements because they were set up on usurped land.

The United States had frozen loan guarantees worth $10 billion to Israel to pressure former Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to stop the building of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. The U.S. Government later agreed to give these guarantees to the Labor Party government led by Rabin following his undertaking to stop building settlements.

In his statement, Subayh noted that Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinian side in Oslo. It stipulated that settlements would be discussed at the start of the final stage, namely, one year from now. It also indicated that settlement building would be frozen until then, Subayh added.

Continuing, Subayh said the new Israeli step confirms Israel's plans to absolve itself of the peace agreement. This is evident in Israel's declaration that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that this issue is not negotiable, although the issue of Jerusalem is listed on the agenda of the upcoming negotiations, according to the Declaration of Principles, Subayh said.

The Palestinian official said that this Israeli policy will jeopardize the peace process and pointed to the loss of life by the Palestinian and Israeli peoples due to this policy. Subayh stressed that this policy might also harm the other tracks.

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### Ambassador Regrets Decision

*NC2809110994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador and the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has condemned Israel's expansion of settlements in the occupied territories.

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that "postponing the discussion of the issues of Jerusalem and settlements to the final stage of the solution does not give Israel the right to make any demographic changes on the land."

Al-Qidrah regretted Rabin's approval of expanding settlements at a time when all are trying to support the peace process in implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of principles and the Cairo agreement.

The Palestinian official emphasized that the continuation of the settlement activity endangers Israel's credibility and will have an adverse impact on the peace process in its entirety.

## Jordanian Decision on Awqaf, Courts Welcomed

### Will 'Enhance' Relationship

*JN2809111294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Commenting on Jordan's decision to sever ties with the Islamic courts and awqaf [Islamic endowments] in the West Bank, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's press adviser, said that this Jordanian step is one in the right direction and will enhance the special relationship between the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian people.

Abu-Rudaynah said he hopes an understanding will be reached with the brothers in Jordan on the remaining outstanding issues, including Jerusalem's awqaf.

### Decision on West Bank Praised

*TA2809063194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] Jordan has repeated its refusal to let the PLO take control of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. A Jordanian Cabinet statement said that Jordan will continue its legal and administrative responsibility over Islamic affairs and Shari'ah Islamic law in Jerusalem, but religious endowments and Islamic courts in the rest of the West Bank are being turned over to the PLO. On Saturday the PLO said it would take over funding of Muslim holy sites in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and in Jerusalem from next month. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, who is in charge of Islamic affairs in the Palestinian Authority, has praised the Jordanian Government decision. He told a Qol Yisra'el reporter that he expects future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians to remain good.

## 'Abbas on Performance of PNA, Return Home

*MM2709163594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 6*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the most important results and impressions after your recent visit to Palestine and the autonomy areas of Gaza and Jericho?

['Abbas] The most important impression was that I felt for the first time that I was in my homeland and that my feet were on the national soil that I left in 1948. There was a sense of belonging and of citizenship. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Judging by your meetings with the Palestinians in the autonomy areas and those residing in Israel, how do you view their reactions to the peace process?

['Abbas] I did not find any objectors among the 1948 Palestinians [Palestinians in Israel]. Everyone realizes the importance of peace. [passage omitted] I found the same response in Gaza in particular and also in the West Bank, but there is some opposition there, be it individual or partisan, ranging from objection to some of the results and objection to the entire process. We have such opposition and so do the Israelis. That is not strange and I personally do not fear opposition. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] During your visit to the homeland did you listen to any complaints, grievances, or criticisms by Palestinians about the peace process, which has not radically changed their conditions, and about the performance of the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] headed by President 'Arafat?

['Abbas] There are many complaints against the PNA's performance and the lack of Israeli response to demands. Regarding the PNA's performance, many people want to work within the PNA, many want to benefit from it, and many want to see everything change overnight. I say that those in charge of the PNA are not above criticism. They have made mistakes and the PNA itself has made many mistakes, but it would be wrong to judge it now, just four or five months after taking charge. It must be given a chance, but, on the other hand, there are some negative aspects which should have never occurred, such as some of the repressive actions pertaining to the freedom of the press, the numerous appointments which, in some cases were unjustified, the frequent incorrect talk about economic issues, projects, and other things such as noncompliance with the international aid conditions. I believe

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the PNA should pay attention to these matters to prevent the accumulation of mistakes which would impede its work. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you personally view the PNA's performance?

['Abbas] I cannot judge it now. There are no ministries, departments, or employees. There are ministers without ministries, but this has not been a long-standing situation. It is not final, and the PNA must be given a chance before its performance can be objectively evaluated, but it can be said now that the PNA's work is very slow.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now, after your brief visit to the homeland, do you intend to return to Palestine to live there permanently?

['Abbas] We certainly must return. We have struggled for 46 years in order to be able to return to the homeland. When the opportunity arises we will return without delay.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But when will that opportunity come?

['Abbas] The opportunity is available now. I have made a brief visit. When I finish my work and engagements here in Tunis, I will certainly return to settle down in my homeland permanently. I have been asked frequently if I would participate in the authority or not, and I said that I did not want to participate but I do want to live in my country. It is not necessary for everyone who struggled for the authority to be a part of it.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does this mean that you will retire from politics?

['Abbas] Certainly not. Working within the authority is one thing and working in politics is quite another. I could write and I could express my views within the Fatah structures and within and outside the Executive Committee. Let us not forget that the PLO is the official source of the PNA's authority. So, I will have a role, but it will be outside the PNA. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you, on your recent visit, feel that the features of a Palestinian state were beginning to fall into place?

['Abbas] I see no reason to change my belief that a Palestinian state will emerge. All the agreements being concluded will ultimately lead to an independent Palestinian entity, but things depend on the PNA's performance and the response of the Israelis. It could take two years and it could take five years, but there will definitely be a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now that a year has passed since the Oslo agreement was signed, do you not believe that a new mechanism is needed for its implementation?

['Abbas] We now need great efforts and a new method of negotiation. At first we used to negotiate secretly in exile. Now there should be permanent committees on Palestinian territory, working daily and discussing six important issues that are related to the final settlement but should be studied now. The negotiation process should be a machine or a beehive working without clamor and without the media, because the media are not conducive to the quiet work that would carry the peace process through to its ultimate conclusion.

I am at present unhappy with the Palestinian side's mechanism in the negotiations with Israel.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you assess the past phase of the negotiations?

['Abbas] There was much improvisation, especially last year, because of the sudden changes that came as a surprise to the negotiators. All that causes confusion. There was also a lot of interference by numerous parties, from the Executive Committee, the Central Committee, and others. That was a grave mistake. While the other side negotiates with one united delegation, everyone of us wants to negotiate. That is why we do not achieve results. That method does not lead to a solution. There must be one central negotiating unit that is held responsible. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you expect to assume the leadership of the Palestinian negotiating delegation again?

['Abbas] No, I have no wish to supervise the negotiations again, but I have no objection to offering my experience, expertise, information, and views to any group negotiating with Israel. [passage omitted]

### Qaddumi on Gaza-Jericho Agreement

*MM2709152594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 94 p 2*

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] In your view, to what extent is Israel adhering to the implementation of the provisions of the agreements it signed with the PLO, now that a year has passed since the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed?

[Qaddumi] As I used to say before the Gaza-Jericho agreement, "the outcome is nil." I mean that the autonomy areas are now facing extremely difficult problems because of the obstacles Israel is placing in the way of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and the restoration of normal life in the Gaza and Jericho areas, despite the fact that a year has elapsed since the agreement was signed. Israel has not adhered to so-called freedom of movement and travel for the Palestinian people within the liberated area, if indeed they have been liberated. We have not seen any flexibility. Even the question of handing over the crossings to the Palestinian

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police is still under study by Israel, despite the fact that it signed an agreement covering that. And there is also the problem of the citizens having to have permits to enter their towns and villages. Even PNA members have to have prior permits to cross. Israel is putting increasing pressure on every Palestinian who goes to his homeland. So the Israeli occupation is the same as it was before the agreement, with the exception of some formalities where we always see some progress, giving some people the impression that there is some forward movement toward implementation of the agreement. That is why everyone is disappointed, but we cannot hold the Palestinian side fully responsible for that. Israel must bear the main responsibility for continuously refusing to complete the transfer of power to the Palestinians.

[Abu-Husayn] Could we say that a part of the responsibility falls on the donor states for not honoring the financial commitments necessary for the success of the PNA?

[Qaddumi] Yes. Regrettably, the donor states promised and announced more than once that they were about to provide aid and financial contributions, but today we find them evading these commitments and creating obstacles, going so far as to impose preconditions such as that they should oversee the volume and quality of the projects they want for the autonomy areas. They have again requested that the aid should be subject to controlling bodies attached to them. Finally, at the Paris conference, they, in cooperation with Israel, created more obstacles on the pretext that they did not want projects in all West Bank towns and wished to concentrate on the Gaza and Jericho areas only, despite the fact that the second phase of the agreement covers all the West Bank towns.

[Abu-Husayn] So how is that formula of the donor states to be tackled?

[Qaddumi] After the failure of the recent Paris conference, we are now trying to set a new date for a conference of donor states, but in a different context, in the sense that we have drafted a more developed agreement which might satisfy the donor states, on the basis that the aid should be provided within the framework of bilateral cooperation on the grounds that that might provide better opportunities for cooperation regarding the diversity of projects, with each state making contributions to a field different from the other.

[Abu-Husayn] Since the Arab League Council's resolution acknowledging the Palestinians' right to have Jerusalem as their capital, there have been some Jordanian statements insisting on custody of the holy places which it got under the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. How will that problem be tackled?

[Qaddumi] The Arab League irrovocably settled the question of Jerusalem, as confirmed by several Arab and Islamic resolutions emphasizing its Arabism and Palestinian religious and political custody. We blame Israel for that problem, which it created with its recent decisions meant to divide Arab ranks and especially the cordon states concerned with the peace process. It continues to maintain the same approach on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, but it will not succeed.

The Jerusalem question concerns not only the Palestinians, but also the Arabs and Muslims, and all should shoulder their responsibilities, help the Palestinians and, most importantly, reject all Israeli attempts to Judaize it, particularly as we have already resolved the question of political and religious rights.

[Abu-Husayn] Lebanon has again reaffirmed its rejection of the resettlement of any Palestinians on its territory. Why take that position at this particular time?

[Qaddumi] I will visit Lebanon to discuss this matter with the Lebanese officials because it affects a large number of Palestinians, and consultations must be held on that.

The PLO-Israeli Declaration of Principles gives the refugees the right to return and states ways of return—in stages or absolute.

So far, about 50,000 people have returned with the police forces, but there is also an optional right of return. When the final phase of the negotiations begins, everyone will have the absolute right to return. We insist on our right, whatever the pressures. At present we are in disagreement with Israel on this matter, particularly regarding the 1948 refugees. We take numerous concepts into consideration. A Palestinian who has emigrated to Lebanon has various options. He could return to Nabulus, for instance, or to somewhere else, or he could stay in Lebanon as a Palestinian with a Palestinian passport with the right to go to Palestine at any time.

### Hamas Leader on Relations With Fatah

*BR2709143394 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p 10*

["Exclusive" interview with Hamas leader Mahmud Zahar by Henrique Cymerman at Hamas headquarters in Gaza "yesterday": "'Arafat Would Be Making a Serious Mistake If He Continues Bowing To Arab and American Pressure"]

[Text] "Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] enjoys the support of the majority of the Palestinian people," Dr. Mahmud Zahar, leader of that fundamentalist movement, said yesterday in an exclusive interview conducted in his clinic in the Gaza Strip, which serves as the organization's headquarters.

Zahar directs the attacks of the fundamentalist armed wing, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, against Israeli targets and, at the same time, prepares his movement to stand up to Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group in the first Palestinian elections, which probably will be held before the end of the year (the possibilities of 1 November or 15 December are

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being discussed). For the time being, he gave assuramces that they will participate in the municipal elections and in the elections to establish the new Palestinian National Council. "I am basing myself on facts: There have been elections in 26 institutions, chambers of commerce, municipalities, student committees, and the trade unions of engineers and doctors, and Hamas obtained 45 percent of those votes. Moreover, this also happened before the Madrid conference, the deportations by the Israelis, the successful attacks by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, and the so-called Oslo agreement," he added.

[Cymerman] One year later, how do you assess the Israeli-PLO agreement?

[Zahar] Israel controls 40 percent of the area of Gaza and the economy of the so-called autonomous area. It is opposed to freeing Palestinian prisoners and it is opening up its doors to the Arab world, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The agreement favors Israel in all respects to the detriment of the Palestinians.

[Cymerman] But what are the differences between Hamas and Fatah?

[Zahar] There are many. Our constitution is the Koran and the "Sunna." They are secular. We are seeking to establish an Islamic state and we are part of the pan-Islamic movement throughout the area. They are limited to a small area in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Cymerman] What do you think of the detention of fundamentalist activists ordered by 'Arafat?

[Zahar] He is doing that because of pressure from Israel. This will lead to Israel exerting more pressure on 'Arafat. If he puts pressure on Hamas, there will be more deaths on the Israeli side. I hope there will not be a civil war among the Palestinians.

[Cymerman] In other words, the attacks against Israeli targets will continue here, in Buenos Aires, or in London.

[Zahar] Hamas says in its statements that we will attack Israelis in the occupied zone. The occupation is still there.

[Cymerman] What do you think of 'Arafat? Do you think he is collaborating with Israel?

[Zahar] I do not really know, but I can see that he does not understand the basic rules of the Middle East game and he responds to pressure from Arabs and Americans. He will be making a big mistake if he goes on like this.

[Cymerman] Do you think that 'Arafat's life is in danger, as was the case with al-Sadat in Egypt?

[Zahar] I am sure that the Islamic side will not be responsible for his death.

[Cymerman] Is it possible that 'Arafat's fighters will not obey his orders to fight Hamas?

[Zahar] Yes. There are many examples of this.

[Cymerman] How? Why?

[Zahar] No details.

[Cymerman] 'Arafat reached a conclusion similar to that of the Western countries. According to him, Israel has the right to exist, although he is not prepared to renounce Palestinian sovereignty.

[Zahar] (Laughs) In medicine, this is called schizophrenia. A two-faced policy is not acceptable. There must at least be a group which has full rights and another which is the target of injustice. Palestine is our land and is based on our religion. It is the most important sanctuary of Islam. Israel is not a Jewish state. It is a secular state based on the national wing, or zionism. We are deeply convinced that this state will be eliminated and the alternative will be an Islamic state in which the Jews can live.

### Hamas Reportedly Bans Clashes With PNA Police

*JN2709131794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has said that the meeting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] brothers held with His Excellency President 'Arafat at his headquarters sought to assure our people that Palestinian blood has overcome the sword and that direct national dialogue is the dominant trend.

In its weekly bulletin, Fatah stressed that this meeting emphasized to Hamas and all Palestinian opposition forces and factions that the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] represents the Palestinian people everywhere. It added that the doors of the PNA and all its institutions are wide open for all honest strugglers and mujahidin, and that there is no alternative to dialogue to abort sedition and hostile schemes.

In another development, Hamas has issued strict orders to the members of its military wing not to clash with the Palestinian police force. In a statement issued yesterday, Hamas said its delegation's meeting with President 'Arafat at the beginning of this week came in response to the latter's invitation with the aim of maintaining the unity of Palestinian ranks. It spoke about the sanctity of the Palestinian blood regardless of political leanings.

In a related development, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader, called for the immediate release of Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin due to his deteriorating health. During President 'Arafat's meeting with a Hamas delegation, al-Zahhar said that the release of prisoners requires official and public Palestinian, Arab, and international pressure. He noted that Israel is resorting to blackmail to continue its detention of prisoners and that political prisoners should be released unconditionally.

In another development, the Israeli occupation authorities yesterday arrested 20 youths close to Hamas from the city of Nabulus and the villages of Bayt Furik, Tall, and 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah.

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**Adviser Says Police Ready To Deploy in West Bank**

*JN2709135194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Commenting on a statement by Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, in which he said that the Israeli Army will not be redeployed in the West Bank before the Palestinian police can assume responsibility in the main cities, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Araft's adviser, said the Palestinian police and security forces are fully prepared to assume responsibility in the West Bank as they have done in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

**Halt To Security Activity Beyond Autonomy Urged**

*TA2809060994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] A Fatah commission of inquiry has recommended stopping Palestinian security service activity outside the autonomy areas. The inquiry was set up after the murder of a Fatah activist in the Tulkarm area. The commission recommends more coordination among the various Palestinian security services and the speeding up of the establishment of a judicial system in the autonomy areas.

Jerusalem police are meanwhile requesting that the three bodyguards of Jibril al-Rujub arrested early this month in Jerusalem be brought to trial. The three bodyguards of the Palestinian security chief were suspected of kidnapping a senior member of the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority and taking him to Jericho for questioning.

Yasir 'Arafat has approved the recommendations of his Fatah organization's higher committee regarding general elections in the territories. He specifically endorsed the plan to appoint a special committee which will supervise the preparations to be made for the elections.

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## Algeria

### Released FIS Leader on Talks With Government

*MM2809111994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 4*

[Telephone interview with FIS leader Cheikh Kamel Guemazi by Jamal Khashuqji; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] What is the background to your release from prison, and what truth is there in the reports of an agreement between you and the authorities?

[Guemazi] Our release from prison is a restoration of our freedom, of which we were unjustly robbed. We committed no crime in order to be put in prison. We were persecuted for political objectives the regime wanted to achieve (at the time) to fragment the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and hit the Islamic project in Algeria. We did not bargain over our freedom. Nor did we promise the authorities anything in return for our freedom. We just expressed our willingness to work to secure a legitimate and just solution to the crisis the country is experiencing, which we did not cause. But out of our concern for the Algerian people's interests, we asked the authorities to embark on a preliminary step represented by our release and that of the other FIS leaders and cadres.

[Khashuqji] Is your release from prison the first step toward your participation in the dialogue sponsored by President Liamine Zeroual?

[Guemazi] The question of participating in the dialogue falls under the jurisdiction of the collective leadership of its political and armed jihad wings. It is the leadership alone which can decide on such issues. However, we are not obliged to do anything before the leadership's meeting.

[Khashuqji] Does that mean that the FIS leaders' expected meeting has not yet taken place?

[Guemazi] We were released (from prison) about 10 days ago, and other leaders are still in prison or operating underground or abroad, in addition to the brothers involved in armed jihad action. We continue to urge the authorities to satisfy the conditions we have demanded. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Are you enjoying your freedom in full in terms of movement, visiting people, and going to the mosques?

[Guemazi] Yes. Since our release, despite the difficult circumstances, we have been moving freely. We go to the mosques and meet with people there, praise be to God.

[Khashuqji] How did the people receive you in the mosques?

[Guemazi] Despite all that happened, Algerian mosques are still full of worshipers. In fact, the mosques cannot accommodate all worshipers. But the security authorities ban people from praying outside the mosques. Citizens expect good from our release, and we have spoken to them. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Have you made any contacts with Cheikhs Abdelrazzak Radjam and Mohamed El Said, the most prominent members of the provisional bureau?

[Guemazi] No meeting has taken place. We are working to hold a meeting.

[Khashuqji] Have you obtained guarantees that you will meet with these cheikhs, especially as you know they are operating underground pursued by the authorities?

[Guemazi] We told the authorities in our letter dated 6 September that no solution can take place before we meet with all our brothers working in politics and armed action.

[Khashuqji] Does that mean that there is tacit agreement from the authorities for you to meet with these elements?

[Guemazi] More than that. The authorities do not object to that. They believe it is necessary for a solution.

[Khashuqji] How will the armed groups participate in a solution, and who is going to contact them? Do you expect any obstacles from them, especially from the Armed Islamic Group, [GIA] if you reach an agreement with the authorities?

[Guemzi] The position on the armed groups is clear in our collective letter dated 6 September, and also in Cheikh Ali Belhadj's letter and Cheikh Abassi Madani's second letter. So the question is settled, namely that the armed groups' participation in a solution is necessary. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] What is your position on the cancelled elections? Are you still insisting on resuming them?

[Guemazi] That is one of the questions to which I referred before, everyone's opinion should be sought in this connection.

[Khashuqji] You have said on more than one occasion that you are looking for a legitimate solution to the crisis. What are the features of this solution?

[Guemazi] I do not want to offer a personal opinion. All that I said was the view of the brothers who were with me in prison and some of the people with whom we have met recently. So matters should be left until the right time. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] What about the French position on the crisis? Will it be discussed by you? Has the time not come for you to offer the French, who are concerned about the possibility of the FIS' assumption of power, guarantees that you will not threaten their interests?

[Guemazi] If there is a need for a gesture of goodwill, it should come from the French first. France's problem is that it still has not accepted that it was defeated and

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moved out of Algeria. It continues to deal with the Algerian issue as a guardian. It also continues to instigate its puppets to destabilize the situation in Algeria. It has unjustly arrested our brothers, expelling some of them, as happened with the brothers who were unjustly deported to Burkina Faso, hence insulting the Algerian people and harming the future of its interests in Algeria. All we are asking France and other states is to be at least neutral if they cannot work for good, and to put pressure on the authorities to return the rights to their owners.

[Khashuqji] The Algerian authority is divided into tendencies: extremist and moderate. And there is a strong "eradicationist" tendency among them which rejects dialogue with you. Do you sense this in your dealings with President Liamine Zeroual?

[Guemazi] We are not dealing with the authority as individuals or extremist blocs. We are clearly dealing with it as one single official authority. And we brief public opinion and the Algerian people on all that is happening between us to eliminate any confusion.

[Khashuqji] Why do Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj not make press statements?

[Guemazi] They are banned from contacting media services. And as I said before, the two cheikhs are still legally under arrest and have not obtained their freedom in full.

### Spanish Daily Views Anti-Fundamentalist Militia

*BR2809135794 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 26 Sep 94 p 14*

[Article by Ferran Sales: "The Army of the Algerian Night"]

[Text] Algiers—"Grip the steering wheel. Push the accelerator to the floor. Don't try to avoid the potholes in the road. Always remember that your life is more important than the car's suspension. Do not stop for an instant until you reach Algiers. Never forget that for them you are just a damned foreigner and a fundamentalist commando would need just 30 seconds to appear from behind a bush, block your way, and blow your brains out with a single shot."

The person speaking is an anonymous member of an underground army that is forming and arming itself in Algeria to fight Islamic fundamentalism. He gives his advice frankly from the other side of the table in an office in the suburbs of Tizi Uzu in the heart of the Kabilia region, just 90 km south of Algiers.

This soldier of the night, like many other neighbors in the region, has decided to acquire a weapon and enroll in a people's militia that has been mushrooming in recent months in small towns with the aim of acting as a barrier against raids by fundamentalist factions and making up for the deficiencies of the overrun security forces.

For the time being, there are only isolated armed groups which act independently and without coordination, but they claim they are ready to unite and coordinate their efforts as soon as they hear an energetic voice of authority. They represent the first response to the calls by "ultra" leaders who are constantly urging the people to take up arms and resist and fight to the death to prevent any attempts at a pact between the Army and the fundamentalist forces of the Islamic Salvation Front.

They are, in effect, the cannon fodder of a fifth column that is trying to derail the process of dialogue which the General Liamin Zeroual, the president of the republic, has been preparing for several weeks now with the traditional leaders of the fundamentalist movement. These underground soldiers accept their "historical mission" and claim that their natural leaders are Prime Minister Reda Malek and the psychiatrist Said Saadi who is the president of the "ultra" party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy.

However, they state that their main aim is not to abet the political ambitions of any particular Algerian figure, but to defend their own lives and their homes, to preserve the honor of their women, and to continue with an armed struggle. It is not in vain that they believe themselves to be worthy heirs of the old kabils, a hunting aristocracy which controlled the region long before the Arabs arrived.

The backdrop for the combat of this people's militia is the region of Kabilia, one of the most prosperous and developed zones in the north of Algeria. It is comprised of four wilayas or provinces—Tizi Uzu, Bumardes, Bejaia, and Buira—inhabited by a compact and united people living in the Berber culture, a language commonly spoken by a quarter of the Algerian people. This region which, little more than two years ago was removed from the conflict that pitted the Army against the fundamentalist forces, has now become a real battle field, just like the rest of Algeria.

This local leader of the army of the night admits: "Of course I have my own pistol." He says he obtained it on an underground market in an ethereal "suk" that has been growing in recent months and where, for astronomical sums, it is possible to acquire any kind of gadget you require. The traders are the former dealers in contraband tobacco and household electrical items who have now found a new lease of life.

For little more than 40,000 dinars you can buy a pistol or a revolver on this market, or for 150,000 to 200,000 dinars a Kalashnikov assault rifle in perfect condition. The hardest thing to buy, expensive and scarce, is ammunition. A 32-round Kalashnikov clip, for example, costs more than 10,000 dinars—1,500 pesetas a shot.

Everything is purchased with absolute discretion, and no one will ask where the hardware comes from or for a receipt, although everyone is convinced that many of these weapons, especially the most modern ones, come

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from the Army. The underground soldier wonders aloud whether this arms trafficking is stimulated by the fundamentalists themselves, plundering the weapons of their victims. Or, he wonders, do the weapons come straight out of the Army's arsenal? Nobody dares answer that question.

However, the armed militia of the village of Iguyal, for example, do not just bear weapons bought on the black market. They also have arms left over from the war of independence. Everything is lumped together in a jumbled and shameful arsenal that includes shotguns. Gun in hand, they constantly patrol the town's access points, waiting for the return of the fundamentalist factions, three of whose number they felled a few days previously. The same thing is going on in Atuch, where a former leader of the war of independence against France was shot while he was sitting outside a bar. His friends are also waiting, weapons at the ready, to exact their vengeance.

However, this is nothing compared with Draa Ben Jeda, a town of 50,000 inhabitants just 10 km from Tizi Uzu, where macabre finds have multiplied in recent weeks, such as the head severed from a body found six km further down the road. Then there was the soldier who was taken from his home by a gun-wielding child less than 10 years' old and led away at gun point to an area of wasteground before being cut up like an animal carcass with a metal saw.

### Kidnapped Lawyer Found Dead

*LD2709221394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] After he was kidnapped on Monday by two armed men in the suburb of Bentalha in Baraki, Saidi Youcef, a lawyer at the Medea court, was found dead yesterday. Saidi Youcef, 43, was married and the father of 10 children.

### Kidnapped Singer's Car Found; Background Story

*NC2709101394 Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Algiers, Sept 27 (AFP) - Algeria's Berbers Tuesday announced the discovery of the empty car of kidnapped singer Lounes Matoub, whose disappearance Sunday night brought a threat of "total war."

Matoub, 38, known for his anti-fundamentalist views, was kidnapped en route from Tizi-Ouzu, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Algiers, to his village of Taourirt Moussa.

The Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) said he had been taken by "elements claiming to represent Islamic armed groups."

"If Matoub is not returned safe and sound to his family within 48 hours, a total war will be waged against all of them (the kidnappers) and all those, without exception, who help them in any way," the movement warned Monday [26 September].

It warned that the government would also bear responsibility for the kidnapping.

The singer's car was found some 35 kilometres (21 miles) from Tizi-Ouzo at Draa El Mizan, near the fundamentalist stronghold of Bouira, the MCB said Tuesday, but the group still had no details on his fate.

Matoub has been an active figure in the MCB, which represents members of Algeria's 17 percent Berber-speaking minority.

He has frequently spoken out against the increased influence of Islamic fundamentalism in Algerian politics and recently recorded a song mocking the fundamentalist extremists.

In 1988, he was wounded in the stomach by several bullets fired by police during rioting in the town of Kabylie.

His survival boosted his tough image.

News of his kidnapping came amid reports of the weekend killing of an Algerian journalist and a press photographer, who became the latest victims of a fundamentalist campaign against journalists and intellectual figures in Algeria.

Seventeen journalists have been killed since May 1993.

Matoub, in his last record, had paid tribute to the reporters and intellectuals murdered by Muslim militants.

One of his songs was entitled "Kenza," the name of the daughter of Tahar Djaout, the first journalist murdered on May 26, 1993.

A fervent backer of the Berber language, Matoub in his record also derided the Arabic language as "uninteresting" and criticized Algeria's educational system, which he said produced "monsters."

Matoub has also taken part in numerous demonstrations organized by the MCB, which has been fighting for official recognition of the Berber language since 1980.

The MCB has organized a boycott of the new school year since September 10 and has called for strikes and demonstrations in October.

### Interior Ministry Comments

*LD2709213994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Concerning the kidnapping of Berber singer Matoub Lounes, an Interior Ministry statement has said that the government denounces the kidnapping carried out by unidentified men. The perpetrators are being hunted down by the security services, he said. The

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statement declared that, by this terrible act, some circles who are against Algeria and its stability are trying to plant the seeds of unrest and discord among the people, who have been experiencing acts of blind terrorism for some time.

The government, according to the statement, urges all citizens to be politically mature and exercise national insight in order to foil the traps set by the nation's enemies.

The statement added that at a time when the security forces are striking fatal blows to the terrorism movement and at a time when a responsible and constructive dialogue is under way to bolster Algeria as a republic, a democracy, and a stable country which is strong democratically and economically, the government is aware that all Algerians—women and men—will unite and mobilize against the joint enemy. The Interior Ministry recalled that, according to the Constitution, the security and property of individuals are the responsibility of the state alone. The statement ended by saying that, in this context, no act which opens the way to chaos and threatens the principles of the republic can be acceptable.

### Berbers Withdraw Ultimatum

*LD2809111394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1000 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] The MCB, the Berber Cultural Movement, has withdrawn its ultimatum launched following the abduction of the singer and militant Matoub Lounes.

The president of the movement, Ferhat Mheni, this morning confirmed his decision, which he explained by saying that the two kidnappers had been identified.

The security services have indeed launched search and investigation operations that have led to the identification of the two kidnappers. They are two terrorists who have already carried out several killings and sabotage actions. We do not have more details on these two persons. We still have no news about singer Matoub Lounes.

### Sifi Addresses Economic, Social Council

*LD2709175494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1927 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at the opening of the second session of the General Assembly of the National Economic and Social Council in Algiers on 26 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; peace and prayers be upon the most honorable messenger; Mr. Chairman; members of the National Economic and Social Council; members of the government; honorable guests; ladies and gentlemen; peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

It gives me pleasure and makes me very happy to be here today with you. There are at least two reasons my pleasure is increased: The first is that you represent the country's living forces which can be found in all the economic and social public and private sectors, as well as the group movements and the wage earners—the living forces that guarantee the management of our society and economy without any political bias or party interests; and the second is defined in your main task—to guarantee the continuation of the dialogue and consultation between the economic and social partners, a noble and difficult task under Algeria's special circumstances.

These two reasons enable you to be the best people to follow up the government's activities and the most capable people to judge our will and sincerity to serve our country and to reduce as much as possible the effects of the economic measures we undertook in order to convert over to a market economy and to enable all of those whom you represent to serve Algeria the best way they can—an Algeria liberated from bureaucratic obstacles and adminstrative management and its injustices.

Ladies and gentlemen, before reviewing the work of the government and dealing with the result of our activities and the ambition of our projects, I would like to talk about the political development which has taken place in the past few weeks and perhaps dissipate some people's misinterpretations which are being fueled here and there about the government's endeavor.

First, as I stressed before the Transitional National Council, this government is politically neutral and is neutral in the positive sense of the word. This does not mean that no one among us has a political stance but that we have committed ourselves to carry out a given and clear mission for a definite period aimed at cleaning up and reviving the national economy in a social environment, which we want to be characterized by the greatest possible stability.

I know, and all of you know, that this duty to show reservation which we have imposed on ourselves is difficult to shoulder, but it is necessary. There are many people in Algeria who practice politics, but in my opinion there are not enough people who work seriously. Despite this, it is necessary for this country to work, proceed forward, and live, even if we are in a political crisis. The people await to be heard through calm elections. All members of the government, myself included, who have accepted our tasks with all voluntary spirit and courage, will continue relentlessly to work for the achievement of the aims defined in the platform of the national consensus contained in the government's program, which was approved by the Transitional National Council.

Clearly, the difficult situation experienced by the country concerns us considerably. It could affect the potential of our work because before being government members and officials, before anything, we are Algerians first. Like all Algerians, we feel the pains of our country,

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and we hope that Algeria will get out of its trial and recover civil peace, progress, and prosperity. For this reason, is there another solution we could choose to pursue national dialogue? This dialogue is one of the important means to realize the objectives of the transitional stage included in the platform of the national consensus. We stop violence and bloodshed because violence can breed only violence in an endless infernal circle. The head of state has had the courage and farsightedness to opt for dialogue despite the demagogy of some and the attempts at pressure by others. Those who are still hesitating are not proposing anything tangible; and by so doing they are inflicting damage on the future of Algeria, despite the fact that everything requested by the political parties has been done by the head of state.

First, the dialogue is being held in full openness: The public and even the parties refusing to take part are informed about every detail. Second, the aim of this dialogue is very clear: arriving at a consensus between the parties so as to resume the electoral track in a climate of social stability, peace, and tranquility. Third, the framework of the dialogue has been brought to mind several times: respect for the national constants, which are the constitution, the republic, the fact that Islam is the religion of the Islamic state [applause], shunning violence as a means of political action, individual and collective liberties, respect for human rights, democracy, and respect for the national values, political pluralism, rotation in power through the ballot box. Up to now, the state has on its part taken most of the required measures for making the dialogue successful, and we are waiting for a tangible contribution from the parties to this dialogue. It is required that from now on the Algerian political class must shoulder its responsibility because the dialogue, as the head of state pointed out recently, requires the existence of effective partners. As His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, also pointed out, the crisis through which the country is passing has a political nature and no political force can consider itself as not concerned with it. Matters require that the political parties face, sooner or later, settling this crisis through the ballot boxes.

It is definitely preferable for the Algerian political class to give now its effective contribution to the settlement of this crisis. This is its compelling duty before the Algerian nation and history.

At the time when the presidency of state multiplies its efforts to facilitate the national dialogue, violence is still making pressures on the society. The government is aware that the security of people and property is a necessary condition for the success of its program of action. This constitutes a main concern for the government, which is determined to continue relentlessly its decisive action to restore security, an act which is in the benefit of the citizens and protects national property.

In parallel to this, we have great hope that terrorism and the bloody actions accompanying it will be reduced thanks to an increase in the feeling of responsibility, in parties, associations, cadres, workers, and citizens, to face this danger.

We have a deep conviction that we will achieve and entrench our future patriotism that is liable to unify all the sound forces in this country so as to get rid of this predicament from which Algeria is suffering.

I wish that this hope is shared with me by all Algerians, men and women, who feel deep in themselves the strong desire to stand up and shout: Let terrorism and violence stop, and enough is enough.

In addition to its social and economic activities, the government faces challenges for the most part while carrying out its mission with all dedication and determination. Such was the case when Mascara's earthquake happened, and also when pupils went back to schools in the face of the savage threats of extremists.

When the return to schools took place, the government was present in all parts of the national territory, expressing thus its solidarity with pupils, their parents, teachers, cadres, and workers of national education. [passage omitted]

These days, some political leaders—and I stress the word political—are making efforts to push people in two or three provinces into boycotting studies and to transform the boycott into a general and comprehensive strike.

I wonder, what is all that for? Is it simply a demand for the teaching of the Thamazighth [Berber] language as from the beginning of this year, that is immediately, in all Algerian schools? I will ignore the technical details and the usefulness of such a process at the national level as a whole, to directly point out the similarities between the use of language for political objectives and the use of religion for political objectives. This kind of attitude can only harm the country and further complicate and inflame the situation.

Personally, I do not have any problem when dealing with the Thamazighth question, in view of having been born in the land which witnessed the birth of Massinissa and Jugurtha [Berber kings] and also witnessed the birth of Ben Badis and Cheikh Larbi Tebessi [Algerian reformers]. I could not be more Thamazighth than Massinissa who chose the Punic language as the official language of his nation when he was the head of a Berber Kingdom. Most probably that was for purely economic reasons.

I do not cast doubt on the legitimacy of the Thamazighth demand in its entirety from the cultural angle and its dimension from the identity angle. However, I would include it in the present context and under the crisis we are experiencing, and I would allow myself in this context to recall the slogan of the Berber cultural movement which says: No Algeria without the Thamazighth. My reply to that is No Thamazighth without Algeria. [applause]

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Let us be earnest and pragmatic in order to prepare for the future soberly and prudently. I have asked the interior minister to make the necessary contacts to enable us appoint a national commission at the highest level to study the ways and means of including the teaching of Thamazighth at schools. The commission has to be representative as much as possible of the regions where the Thamazighth language is predominantly spoken; Kabylie, Aures- Nementcha, M'zab, Sahara, and other regions. The commission will also have to include experts, educators, and representatives of students' guardians in order for it to be able to submit a viable working plan to the government on the teaching of the Thamazighth language.

With everyone's assistance, we hope to be able to reach a stage in a democratic and pluralist Algeria at which we would reassess our culture and history, benefit from the cultures of the East and the West, and finally eliminate exclusion and extremism in our country.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge the students' guardians and the activists in the Berber Cultural Movement not to fall in the trap of using their issue for political objectives. Their message has reached home.

Do not, despite yourself, become allies of the extremist criminals who endeavor to close down all the schools. In opposition to that, let all the students and teachers follow the path of the school to serve the interest of Algeria, which comes above all other interests. I cannot end this call without stressing that the Thamazighth issue is a national issue which must not be exploited or used to serve partisan interests.

Mr Chairman, gentlemen and ladies: The government plan which was endorsed by the Transitional National Council has been officially published, and has been sent to all the partners, including the political parties. The plan takes into consideration the external and internal difficulties. In particular, it is a plan which endeavors to harmonize at every stage between long-term economic interests and pressing short-term social requirements. For the citizen, a substantial part of the plan deals with field work of a pressing nature which responds to the citizen's daily concerns and major problems such as employment, purchasing power, housing and provisions.

In this context, I would like to recall some of the major work which the government has begun or plans to begin in the very near future.

Regarding the supply of provisions in the country, the government, since it was appointed, has begun to initiate action that would in the very short term reduce the tension in the market with regard to the availability of essential and vital goods. The recorded preliminary result indicates a considerable improvement in the supply of provisions, particularly where it concerns:

1. Essential pharmaceutical materials which are necessary for the running of public health service;

2. Widely-consumed food items, particularly essential items like semolina, flour, coffee, sugar and milk;

3. Building material, the availability of which in the market would contribute effectively towards revitalizing the building sector;

4. Raw and semi-manufactured material and spare parts which are essential to our productive units. [passage omitted]

In line with this, the government has taken the necessary measures, in close consultation with the social partners, to settle the salaries of 130,000 workers in the public works and construction sector for a period of eight months, pending the restructuring of production capabilities in the housing sector, to be carried out in a consultative manner.

In the agricultural sector, the government work was represented in a firm and speedy confrontation of the negative impact of the drought and natural disasters on the production capabilities of the farmers and by providing the best conditions which would facilitate the starting of the new agricultural season. Within this context and since the beginning, the government has taken material and financial measures aimed at firstly, compensating the farmers who were harmed by the drought by devoting four billion Algerian dinars and secondly, providing comprehensive protection to livestock, including sheep and cows, through various operations, such as vaccination against various illness as well as providing water for livestock in the peneplain areas. In the field of animal care, it has also been decided to put 800 veterinarians at the disposal of the local communities.

Concerning dealing with the impact of natural disasters—including fire—the government has started a series of operations aimed at concentrating production capabilities in the stricken areas in Bejaia, Tizi Ouzou, and Annaba. This includes replanting productive and forest trees, improving arable lands and (?breaking the isolation of investments). A financial cover of about 800 million Algerian dinars has been allocated for this purpose.

Furthermore, taking into consideration the difficulties faced by farmers as a result of a season of acute drought in 1994, the government has made it a priority to facilitate launching the agricultural season 1994/95 in the best possible way.

Tangible measures have been decreed, in particular the following: firstly, easing the indebtedness of agricultural enterprises through a considerable rescheduling of these debts and secondly, providing the means of production, particularly the seeds for strategic agricultural produce like grains and legumes. [passage omitted]

With regard to major development projects, the government has recognized and brought together the necessary conditions for initiating an extensive program of major

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projects to promote the country's development and provide short-term employment, particularly for the young. These projects include the completion of 1,200 km of railways, to commence in the near future, being the first phase of an overall plan to lay about 3,700 km, to be completed in the medium term. The first phase of the development of the railway network will be in the higher plateaus, create from 40,000 to 50,000, jobs and encourage the employment of national talents. [passage omitted]

The medium term expectations of rural operations are the creation of about 100,000 jobs on the basis of 20,000 jobs a year starting from this year.

In the field of housing, the very strategic nature of the housing issue has made the government include it among its main concerns. In this context, every effort is being made now to hasten the completion of the projects which are under way. These include about 250,000 housing units. Measures have been taken to ensure the availability of building material and the strict follow up on work completed in the field in an organized and effective way [passage omitted]

Regarding development in the deep south, le Grand Sud, the government's concern lies in urban planning, assessing natural resources and seeking the best balance between the distribution of economic activities and human resources. All this requires the establishment of a multidimensional plan at the earliest possible date for the regions in the southern part of the country, particularly, le Grand Sud.

Among the measures the government plans to effect in the short term are the following, in particular:

1. A plan to respond comprehensively to requirements in the field of housing and various other structures to fulfill the requirements of citizens and the conditions needed for establishing economic, social and cultural activities which would be essential for community life;

2. To set an encouraging and attractive system of grants for the employees of the government and local communities who would be asked to work in public services in le Grand Sud;

3. Inclusion of motivating fiscal measures for individuals and profits made by companies. These measures will contribute to encourage the setting up and developing of activities which are greatly lacking in the deep south regions. [passage omitted]

I would like to point out here to the fact that the government has initiated numerous activities on the ground to meet the citizens' concerns and has started implementing many of them, with the aforementioned processes being only mere examples.

These social preoccupations of the government have not prevented it from acting decisively on its economic stability program, as evidenced by the results of the recent review of this program carried out by a committee of Algerian and IMF experts.

Furthermore, in view of the achievements of the first six months of 1994 in the field of imports, particularly when we can see a seven percent increase in comparison with the same period in 1993, we can stress that the conditions exist for renewed production growth unless there are any unexpected hindrances.

It is obvious that the second half of the year will know an even higher economic growth. Therefore, it is logically possible to expect the growth rate of the gross national product in 1994, excluding hydrocarbons and agriculture, to be 3.4 percent, despite decelerated growth during the first half of the year.

It is worth recalling that the gross national product, excluding hydrocarbons and agriculture, is more significant because these two sectors are affected by external factors; e.g., price fluctuation in the international oil markets and drought in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman; ladies and gentlemen: the preferred approach through the program of the transitional phase throughout this period aims basically to realize the following:

Purging the economy and restoring gradually major economic and financial balances by way of a strict policy in the field of the budget and currency, an actual liberation of foreign trade, a far-reaching reform of the prices system, a deepening of the structural reforms, and a bolstering the bases of a market economy by way of processes that will liberate the initiatives of economic operators and strengthen the mechanism of the market in the management of the economy and revive the growth of the national production.

These reforms will basically be directed towards:

—the implementation of an industrial restructuring which will be the subject of precise consultation with all our partners;

—the modernization of the banking and financial system;

—the promotion of national private and foreign investment;

—the modernization of the tax and customs departments;

—the organization of competition, in addition to a real estate policy more compatible with the new reality of development;

—the revival of the national economy on the basis of flexible strategies at the sector level, making the strategy terms for these sectors as short as possible in order to respond to the efforts of economic revival because they entail important productive capabilities; these include strategies to address the needs of citizens in the field of housing and employment, as well as in agricultural food production.

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At the social level there is an important target which encompasses all our attention and concerns the Social Pact. Recently the government began a study of this issue together with its social and economic partners. [passage omitted]

The challenges of the Social Pact are very important, because the success of economic reform, which is currently under way, depends on it. We must continue these reforms within the framework of an effective restructuring of our national economy, based on consultation. The Social Pact will undoubtedly contribute towards the consolidation of all the activities of the government tc strengthen national solidarity and, consequently, secure social justice while confronting the pressures of the economic changes that are taking place. [passage omitted]

Here it gives me pleasure to note that your honorable Council to which the government submitted the 1995 Financial Bill in order to give its views on it, has put down on its agenda for this open session the point relating to the endorsement of the Council's views on the preliminary plan. I would like to refer also to another point on which your Council will be invited to give its contribution. The matter concerns the organizing of an important meeting in the capital during the second half of October in order to recruit our expatriate community for the realization of the economic revival. The private operators, including those who have immigrated, have definite investment capabilities—whether at the financial or the management levels—and constitute a section which will be invited to guarantee a bigger participation in the realization of the aims of our new policy of national development. I am convinced that the immigration committee set up within your Council and the other standing committees and also the members of your honorable presidium will submit their valuable contribution in order to realize the awaited aims of organizing this important meeting which will gather the Algerian investors residing abroad.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: These in short are the basic motives and the pedagogical processes which are being utilized to apply the government program which aspires with total resolve to restore Algeria to the path of economic growth, progress and modernization. No doubt that the success of such a program which deals with several aspects of economic and social disruptions definitely requires an assurance, on the one hand, that all competent partners will join the implementation, and on the other hand, that workers and citizens will be mobilized. Within this context, your honorable council forms, in its capacity as a platform for proposals, a suitable place for consultation and exchange of views, while at the same time enriching efforts to implement the program of the transitional period and helping to obtain the maximum possible mobilization and social integration proceeding from the reputation of its members and their status.

In the end, I wish you all success and good luck in your work, and thank you for your attentive listening. May God help us achieve our common aims, and peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

## Egypt

### Shooting in al-Ghardaqah; Attack on Train Reported

*NC2709223294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—An Interior Ministry official source has announced that at around 2200 today an identified assailant fired randomly in al-Dahhar Square in al-Ghardaqah, killing the following people: Volks Alexander, a German national, Walid Mahmud al-Ja'fari, an [Egyptian] student, and Sabir Manaf 'Abd-al-Samad, a ticket collector in an Upper Egypt bus company.

Max Markus, another German and a local woman, Suwayf Sayyid Ibrahim, were wounded.

The Interior Ministry source said that the wounded were transferred to al-Ghardaqah's General Hospital for treatment.

Senior officers of the Red Sea Governorate's Security forces, members of various detective forces, and forensic officials left for the scene of the incident. The security forces are trying to find the culprits. The Public Prosecutor's office has been informed and asked to begin an investigation.

The source added that unknown assailants, hiding inside plantations near a railroad, also fired bullets at train No. 988 in the Mallawi Subdistrict, Upper Egypt, as it was passing. Two citizens were wounded in this incident and were taken to Asyut's General Hospital.

Senior officers of al-Minya's Security Directorate and personnel from various detective agencies left for the site and are now searching the plantations to find the perpetrators.

### Al-Baz Views Ties With Iraq, Iran, Sudan

*NC2709201594 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 7*

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid from Alexandria]

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has announced that reconciliation with Iraq can only be effected through coordination with Arab parties. He added that Egypt believes that the Iraqi people as a fraternal Arab nation are not to blame for the blockade they are experiencing.

He said Egypt will not make unilateral efforts to ease the pressure on Iraq, except within a legal framework and

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with acceptance from both sides assuming that there is a minimum level of psychological readiness on the part of the Gulf states to accept reconciliation. This reconciliation, he noted, should be based on basic requirements; Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as an independent state, its announcement that it has no regional ambitions, ending the Kuwaiti prisoners issue, and recognizing the borders as demarcated by the United Nations.

He said that despite the circumstances prevailing in Iraq, the boycott will not continue forever. The basic issue, he added, can be summed up in the ability of all of us to achieve coordination among all parties and think of a certain formula to achieve reconciliation.

Al-Baz held an open debate with the Alexandria University professors and deans in their club yesterday in the presence of Alexandria Governor Counselor al-Jawsaqi, university president Dr. 'Isam Salim, and the National Democratic Party Secretary in Alexandria Ahmad Khayri.

Al-Baz said: We have been concerned with Yemen's unity since it first evolved because it wasn't established by force, but by mutual agreement between the people in both parts of Yemen who were originally regarded as one nation. Egypt's primary concern is to make sure there is stability in the Arab Peninsula; therefore, our view has always been that concentrated efforts are needed to maintain the unity. Our advice to the Yemeni leadership was that unity cannot be achieved by war or force because this entails various ramifications and economic effects.

He added: Our stand toward Iran has always relied on the fact that Iran is a fraternal Muslim state and our neighbor in the Middle East and on the fact that there have been no reasons for a certain conflict with it in the past and that there is no immediate neighbor that might cause a conflict.

He went on: However, what is awkward is Iran's public policy to interfere in the Islamic countries' affairs. If this concept prevails, we will allow ourselves to interfere equally in Iranian and other countries' affairs. But Egypt rejects custodianship and does not allow any country to speak on behalf of all Muslims.

He emphasized: We tell Iran that if you seek a good relationship with Egypt, no one has the right to impose hegemony on the region's small countries. Our public and clear aim is to protect pan-Arab security so that we will not be surprised by an Arab or non-Arab state threatening another Arab state's sovereignty and security or sending certain groups to create disturbances in it.

Al-Baz said Iran is required to treat its neighbors as a big country not as a dominant power and to specify its stands without contradiction. He added: For the first time we are disclosing that the recent period has witnessed Iranian contacts on improving relations and then they asked for some time so that this can take place quietly and later they announced that relations with Egypt cannot be restored.

Al-Baz said that the Iranians cannot usurp the right of the Palestinians to proceed on the road of peace. It is the Palestinian people alone who have the right to determine their sovereignty on the Palestinian land.

He said that the principal cause for Iran's conflicting attitudes and its failure to rectify the relations with Egypt are due to the fact that the restoration of Egyptian-Iranian relations will tie Iran's hands in the Gulf and will enable us to obstruct its interference which could harm the sovereignty of the states there.

The resumption of the relations will make it incumbent upon the Iranians not to support or back the groups that carry out acts of terrorism in the name of Islam. The actions of these groups have prompted world societies to view Islam as being a source of danger to these societies.

Al-Baz said: Undoubtedly, the resumption of relations with Iran is not an Egyptian demand. This is clear in Egyptian policy. However, our hands are extended to anyone who wants to restore these relations. But we will not reconcile with anyone who tries to undermine the Egyptian national interest.

Touching on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Dr. al-Baz said that Egypt and Sudan are one country. Their strong ties and the joint integrated strategic interest are much bigger than the issue of Hala'ib. We are not seeking any misunderstanding with Sudan because both countries are large enough to have covetous designs in Hala'ib. But the Sudanese Government is using the issue of Hala'ib to aggravate Egyptian-Sudanese relations, harm Egypt, and sow discord between the two peoples. Other excesses followed, including the seizure of the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, and the Egyptian irrigation posts.

Dr. al-Baz added: We adhere to self-restraint and we do not respond to provocations even if some are astonished that we do not respond. We pursue this policy even if some are demanding that we adopt different attitudes toward the provocations that are aimed at harming the eternal relations between the two peoples.

The dialogue between Dr. al-Baz and Alexandria University professors lasted for four hours. Dr. al-Baz said that the current changes in the world occurred in a matter of a few years while in fact they should take a century to occur. An example is the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the emergence of various economic or regional forces.

Dr. al-Baz urged the world's countries to express their opinions in defining the controls which would ensure that all countries would be judged by the same standard.

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### 50 'Militants' Said Arrested in South

*NC2709203594 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, Sept 27 (AFP)—Security forces on Tuesday [27 September] arrested 50 Moslem militants in a sweep in the troubled Asyut and al-Minya provinces of southern Egypt, police said.

"The sweep was part of continuous security efforts to eradicate hiding places for extremists on the run throughout the country, particularly in Upper Egypt," a police official said without elaborating.

Asyut has been a stronghold of Moslem militants since they launched a violent campaign in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secularist government of President Husni Mubarak.

But some militants have taken refuge in neighbouring al-Minya province since a police crackdown in Asyut.

The crackdown followed the death in April of Tal'at Yasin Hammam, head of the armed wing of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group), who was gunned down by security forces in Cairo.

More than 440 people have been killed since the unrest started.

### 'Strong Disapproval' Voiced Over UN Actions

*NC2409085594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 24 Sep 94*

[Text] Washington, 24 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has voiced strong disapproval of a resolution passed by the UN Security Council last night alleviating UN sanctions on the Serbs, saying that it will have adverse consequences for peace efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is currently in Washington, last night telephoned U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and told him of Egypt's strong opposition to the resolution. The foreign minister said that he told Christopher that Egypt believes the resolution is unjust and entails grave consequences. Minister Musa pointed out that the speed with which the resolution was rushed through the UN Security Council suggests that "something is not right." Musa criticized intentions and policies that serve the Serbian side and benefit those who engage in ethnic cleansing and many other crimes. Musa said that the resolution does not augur well either for the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina or for the probity of the international order.

The foreign minister said that he told Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's delegate to the United Nations, to express Egypt opposition to the resolution. Musa added that he will convey the Egyptian view to the UN Security Council president later today.

In response to a question concerning the conversation he had with Secretary Christopher, Musa said that the latter told him that the United States did not expect the resolution to be passed so quickly. Christopher explained that certain countries, particularly Russia, France, and the United Kingdom, gave strong support to the resolution. The U.S. Secretary of State added that the resolution is only a (?temporary) one and that it does not entail the lifting of all sanctions on the Serbs.

Minister Musa last night telephoned Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, who is currently in Washington, and discussed with him the situation in light of the UN Security Council resolution.

The foreign minister said that he will meet tomorrow, Sunday, in New York with the Bosnian prime minister to discuss taking up the matter at the UN General Assembly.

### New Assistant Foreign Minister Named

*NC2609140194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa issued a decision today appointing Ambassador Sa'd al-Fararji to serve as assistant foreign minister.

## Morocco

### Human Rights Council Sends Memorandum to King

*LD2709231894 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] The Consultative Council for Human Rights addressed a memorandum to His Majesty King Hassan II after their 10th meeting. Here follows the text of the memorandum that was read by the chairman of the Council, Mr. Mohamed Mikou.

[Begin Mikou recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Your Majesty, the members of the Consultative Council for Human Rights have the honor to let you know that the Council held its 10th meeting on 22 September 1994, in implementation of the royal order and on the basis of Article 5 of the royal decree No. 1/90/12 issued on 20 April 1990, concerning the Consultative Council for Human Rights.

The Council studied in detail the behavior of the Tunisian authorities against a group of his majesty's citizens living in Tunisia which was represented by their mass expulsion without paying any attention to the soundness of their legal situation and scorning them, their property, and their dignity. [passage omitted]

While aware of its mission to work for the protection of human rights against any violation, the Council was surprised by these behaviors, particularly with regard to the timing chosen for it which coincides with the criminal plan that targeted Morocco's security and stability. These behaviors are in contradiction with the most basic human rights. This matter compels the Council to

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express its condemnation of and indignation at these behaviors. The Council asks the permission of his majesty to submit to him the following proposals:

The Consultative Council for Human Rights wishes to call on the Tunisian authorities to show a spirit of civilized and historical responsibility by retracting from these behaviors and to reconsider their stance by treating the Moroccan citizens present in Tunisia in a way that is committed to the requirements of the Arab Maghreb Union's treaty and the rules of human rights as recognized internationally.

We wish to call on the national institutions throughout the world and the non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights to add their voice to that of the Council in expressing their indignation at this behavior which does not serve the orientations of the two peoples in their endeavor towards achieving a better future in the benefit of the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Western Sahara

### Coordinator Notes Moroccan Violations

*LD2609172594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Republic and secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front, is currently visiting Washington to hold talks with politicians from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate as well as academics interested in the Western Sahara issue. The Saharan president will take this opportunity to inform the people he will meet about the latest developments of the issue, particularly with regard to the implementation of the UN settlement plan. In this respect, we have learned that the Commission for the Identification of Voters has resumed its work on the ground after a brief interruption because of technical reasons.

Our colleague Mohamed Mokhtari from Bechar Radio has sent us this dispatch on the latest developments:

[Begin Mokhtari recording] Mr. Bechir Mustapha Sayed, member of the National Secretariat and the Saharan coordinator working with the MINURSO [United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] delegation, expressed discontent and huge reservations yesterday. His statement was made during a news conference he held at the headquarters of the Saharan Committee of Coordination with the MINURSO, during which he focused on the progress of the operation and its developments in the refugee camps and the occupied towns situated in Saharan territory. According to Bechir Mustapha Sayed, the operation, in its first stages, is taking place under negative and positive aspects despite the pressures imposed by the Moroccan regime in these areas. These pressures include the introduction of voting before the referendum [as heard] and attempts to persuade Saharans living there to join Morocco and proclaim their allegiance to the king before and after they testify before the MINURSO teams and after they are stripped of all their Spanish documents, which are then replaced with Moroccan documents.

Moreover, Saharans living in other provinces have not been informed about the importance of the operation and of the need to register their names on the referendum lists. Efforts have been concentrated only on the residents of Laayoune, which, he said, is regarded as the only window through which the practical developments can be presented to the Moroccan press [as heard].

Regarding the census operation, of 80,000 forms handed out so far by the MINURSO teams, only 18,000 were returned by Saharans; as for the rest, they included names that the other side added to the lists. Talking about the Organization of African Unity, the Saharan coordinator involved in the identification process said that its role was covered up and concealed, whether in the refugee camps or the occupied territories, despite its international political status and its great interest in the developments of the issue.

As regards the criteria used in this identification operation, Mr. Bechir Mustapha Sayed said that Morocco had violated the peace plan and ignored UN Resolution 907, which takes into account the people registered in the 1994 census and not all the others whom Morocco regards as having been left out. [end recording]

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## Bahrain

### Letter Received From Russian Defense Minister

*JN2709153694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain's heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, has received a letter from Pavel Grachev, Russia's minister of defense.

Major General Nikolay Zlenko, acting director of the General Administration for International Military Cooperation at the Russian Defense Ministry [title as received], delivered the letter during his meeting with His Highness Shaykh Hamad here today.

His highness the heir apparent praised the relations between Bahrain and Russia. Moreover, the two sides reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on issues and developments in the international arena of common interest. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### Appeals Court To Review Verdicts in Bush Plot

*NC2709163094 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 27 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti court is to review the verdicts handed out to 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis found guilty of trying to kill former US president George Bush, court sources told AFP Tuesday [27 September].

But the sources, who asked not to be named, said Kuwait's Court of Cassation on October 17 would "only examine the technical sides of the verdicts" delivered by the state security court in June.

Five Iraqis and one Kuwaiti were sentenced to death in June, while six other Iraqis and one Kuwaiti were given jail terms ranging from six months to 12 years. Another Kuwaiti was acquitted.

Most of the defendants denied any involvement in the alleged plot during the year-long trial. But two did admit taking part to differing degrees.

Human rights group Amnesty International has charged the trials were unfair, saying the court did not meet international standards.

The 14 were accused of planning to carry out a car-bomb attack on Bush, at the orders of the Iraqi intelligence service, on April 14, 1993 while he was visiting the emirate.

Baghdad denied any involvement in the attack, which Kuwaiti authorities said they foiled by unearthing the bomb and rounding up the suspects.

After a US investigation into the plot, Washington launched a cruise missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad on June 27 last year killing six people.

Under Bush, the United States spearheaded the multinational military coalition which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

### Flights To India Suspended Due to Plague Fear

*LD2809104394 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Salih al-Muhaylan, minister of health, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and acting planning minister, said the government had suspended all flights between the State of Kuwait and India proceeding from the desire to prevent the spread of the plague epidemic.

Dr al-Muhaylan said this was decided in line with the decision of the executive bureau of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] health ministers' council to suspend flights to and from India within the context of the planned policy to protect the GCC states from the danger of infection of this epidemic. [passage omitted]

## Oman

### Indian Deep-Sea Gas Pipeline Agreement Signed

*BK2709131694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] India and Oman have signed a $2.8 billion agreement for a deep-sea pipeline to deliver Omani gas to India. The agreement was signed yesterday by the visiting petroleum and natural gas minister, Mr. Satish Sharma, and his Omani counterpart, Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari. The 1,130-km deep-sea pipeline will supply 1 billion cubic feet of gas per day. The project is to be completed by 1999.

## Saudi Arabia

### Joint Communique Issued on Nazarbayev Visit

*LD2709204594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Sep 94*

["Text" of joint communique on the visit of Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued on 27 September; place not given]

[Text] At the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 25-27 September.

During the visit a meeting was held between his excellency and the custodian of the two holy mosques. Their talks dealt with bilateral relations and the international

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situation, especially the peace process in the Middle East and cooperation among Muslim countries. The two countries agreed on bolstering and deepening the brotherly relations between the two countries in all areas in order to realize the hopes and aspirations of the two sisterly peoples. The two countries stressed the need to rally their serious and honest efforts in order to work toward the glory of the Islamic nation, its dignity, the preservation of its sanctities, and the rallying of its ranks under the banner of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity, and to work together to support the issues of Islam and the Muslims, to realize their aspirations for a prosperous present and a bright future, and to endeavor to achieve security and stability at the international level.

Stressing their desire to strengthen the bonds of Islamic brotherhood, and pointing to the historical and cultural links between the two sisterly countries, the two parties reviewed ways of establishing and developing cooperation in economic, trade, investment, youth, and sports affairs.

They decided to take every suitable step according to the laws and procedures that are in operation in the two countries in order to encourage economic, trade, investment, technical, cultural, and scientific cooperation and to increase the exchange of visits by delegations and missions in order to obtain the best possible results for the two fraternal countries. In this connection a general agreement on cooperation in economic, trade, investment, cultural, youth, and sports affairs was signed between the two countries. At the same time they agreed to take the appropriate steps to open an embassy for each country in the other country at the earliest possible opportunity. It was also agreed that specialists would study the possibility of arranging direct flights between their countries.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the two countries reaffirmed their support for the current peace process in the Middle East, allowing the Palestinian people fully to exercise their legitimate national rights. The two countries also stressed the importance of stability and security in the Central Asian region and its positive effect on the progress of the economic growth and social development of the states of the region. They also expressed their profound pain at the sufferings of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and voiced their support for the unconditional implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions that guarantee the lawful rights of the people and government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They called on the international community to make serious efforts to put an end to the tragic events in that country.

President Nazarbayev expressed thanks to King Fahd and the Saudi people for the friendly reception he and the delegation accompanying him received during the visit, and for the assistance and efforts of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques to encourage the progress of the developing states and to bolster solidarity and cooperation among the Islamic states according to Islamic principles.

### Cooperation Agreement Signed

*LD2709130294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1036 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 27 Sep—A general cooperation agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the economic, trade, investment, technical, cultural, sports, and youth fields was signed this morning at the palace of conferences in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Based on this agreement, there will be mutual favored nation treatment in the developing trade between the two countries.

The agreement also covers, bolsters, and encourages cooperation in the private sector of joint investments, exchange of visits and delegations, and organization of and participation in temporary trade fairs between the two countries. It will also strengthen cultural relations and cooperation between youth and in sports. [passage omitted]

### Threat to Westerners by Opposition Faction Reported

*JN2709130694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] London, 27 Sep (INA)—A Saudi national opposition faction has threatened to strike at Western interests, kidnap Western nationals, and abduct members of the Saudi royal family if one of its leaders who was arrested by Saudi authorities is not released.

A statement issued by the Saudi opposition organization Battalions of Faith [Kata'ib al-Iman], a copy of which was sent to the London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, said the Arabian Peninsula as a whole is a theater for jihad operations against the despotic authorities of the Saudi regime.

The statement, which was circulated on a mass level in Saudi Arabia, particularly in Riyadh and al-Qasim, said none of the known groups or religious leaders was behind this statement. It held the Saudi authority solely responsible for anything that might happen to any dissident Saudi, whether it is arranged by the intelligence or other agencies. This is especially true in the wake of the arrest of Shaykh Sulayman al-'Awdah, a leading figure of the Saudi national opposition.

The statement warned of the grave situation and underlined the need for the intervention of influential sides to put an end to these infractions on the part of the Saudi regime against defenseless citizens. The statement noted that many Saudis are in possession of arms and that thousands of zealous youths have nationalistic motives and the necessary training.

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### Tehran Reports Mecca Islamic Group's Threats

*LD2709163394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Saudi Arabia has allowed the Americans to build a 32-story hotel next to the Masjid al-Haram [the holy mosque in Mecca]. The construction of this American hotel next to the Masjid al-Haram has met with the negative reaction of the Muslims in Saudi Arabia. One Islamic group has issued a statement, distributed throughout the city of Mecca, announcing that it will not tolerate the American presence in the holy city of Mecca and that it will endanger the interests of American companies.

It should be pointed out that America's comprehensive presence in Saudi Arabia is growing day by day. The chairman of the American company that is to construct that hotel announced that by 1996 two other American hotels will be constructed in Jeddah and Medina.

### Interior Minister Nayif Comments on Arrests

*MM2809095994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 94 pp1, 4*

[Reports by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Jeddah and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in London: "Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: After They Repent We Will Be Tolerant With Those Who Have Been Misled; We Have Evidence of Foreign Contacts"]

[Excerpts] Saudi citizens woke up yesterday morning to local press headlines and radio comments on the arrest of 110 people including Safar al-Hawali and Salman al-'Awdah. They gave a sigh of relief as they read details of what happened. [passage omitted]

In his first comment on developments after Monday's statement, Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "what the group mentioned in yesterday's statement did reflects unrestrained phenomena which cannot be tolerated because they undermine the country's security and preach sedition, and that constitutes a violation and a mutiny. We have definite information about their foreign contacts, supported by categorical evidence."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked about the course of the interrogation of these people. Prince Nayif replied: "We have followed a method of flexibility and tolerance with all. We are still doing that and will continue to do so with those misled individuals who regret what they did, as the statement said. We will release them after the completion of the investigations and after they give undertakings and provide guarantors who will guarantee their return to normal Saudi life. As regards the main people involved or those whose names were given frankly in the statement—meaning Salman al-'Awdah and Safar al-Hawali—theirs is a different matter in the investigation, as the Senior Ulema Council letter indicated."

Prince Nayif, who was speaking from his office in Jeddah yesterday afternoon, some 1,500 km from the capital, Riyadh, where the detainees are held, said: "We do not want to anticipate events. Everything will proceed according to the Shari'ah rules and the public interest in our country. I repeat that we will not, under any circumstances, allow anyone at home or abroad to tamper with the country's security or threaten our people's security."

The Saudi interior minister added: The text of the statement was crystal clear. There was nothing that we did not give or explain to the public opinion.

Asked about the complaint by university professors and education figures that these people [the detainees] spoke in their name, the Saudi minister said: Not only that but they also classified themself as religious ulema and deluded themselves that they had rights of the kind enjoyed by imams.

Abroad, most analysts have welcomed the Saudi Interior Ministry's statement. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### Salih Receives Omani Information Minister

*JN2709134894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas.

Al-Rawwas conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The message deals with fraternal bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them to the mutual benefit of both neighborly peoples [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

### Minister Departs

*JN2709213094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, Omani minister of information and the envoy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, left Sanaa this evening.

Present to bid him farewell were the minister of information, a representative of the Presidential Council's protocol office, and the Omani ambassador to our country.

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### 'Aziz Holds 'Formal Meeting' With France's Juppe

*JN2809091894 Baghdad INA in English 0820 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] New York, Sep 28 (INA)—Iraq's Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz met in New York on Tuesday [27 September] with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

This was the first ever formal meeting at this level between Iraq and France since the U.S.-led 30-state 1991 aggression on the country.

Mr. Juppe warned against continued ignorance of the economic sanctions dossier imposed on Iraq, saying that Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations calls for reconsidering the lifting of the oil embargo imposed on it since August 1990. [passage omitted]

### Meets Other Ministers

*JN2709213394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] United Nations, 27 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this morning held meetings with the foreign ministers of three UN Security Council member states.

'Aziz met with New Zealand Foreign Minister Donald McKinnon at the New Zealand minister's residence. Afterward, he met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in the Security Council's Halls Building. 'Aziz also met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim.

'Aziz and the three ministers discussed the relationship between Iraq and the Security Council as well as bilateral relations with their countries.

### Talks With Pakistani Minister

*JN2709171594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who is a nonpermanent member in the UN Security Council. They discussed the relationship between Iraq and the Security Council as well as bilateral relations.

### Ramadan Confers With Vietnamese Delegation

*JN2709174694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received Do Van Tai, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party [title as received], and his delegation.

During the meeting, Do Van Tai conveyed greetings to President Saddam Husayn from Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh and Comrade Domiyin [name as transliterated], general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, as well as their pride in Iraqi-Vietnamese relations on the official, party, and popular levels. He also stressed their desire to continue promoting and expanding these relations on various levels.

Ramadan emphasized that the Iraqi leader and people take pride in the good relations with Vietnam, and stressed Iraq's readiness for future cooperation on the official and party levels. Ramadan also lauded Vietnam's militant positions on Iraq and its confrontation of the colonialist U.S. policy.

Tai asserted that his visit to Baghdad comes to emphasize the Vietnamese position in solidarity with Iraq. He hailed the Iraqis' march of progress and construction under the blockade.

### Saddam Assails 'Evil' U.S. Policy

*JN2709204494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1850 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said that (?the evil imperialists) do not want to see an Arab country [words indistinct]. In other words, he added, they do not want the Arabs to have their own stand, identity, or the capability to hold integrated and equal dialogue with others. They do not want the Arabs to enjoy their own resources and potential on the national and pan-Arab level, like the French people enjoy their wealth and resources. He said: The evil coveters have decided to colonize the so-called Middle East, to impose their hegemony over its resources and potential, and to interfere in the internal affairs of its countries without exception. However, when they feel that they are incapable of carrying out their evil schemes, they and their ambitions will retreat into submission.

The leader president said: What happened in Somalia is a clear example of these evil intentions and of their inability to function when faced with firmness. His excellency asked: Did the Americans occupy Somalia because the Somalis occupied Kuwait, or because Somalia lies in a strategic position between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean? His excellency said: When the Americans felt that they would pay a dear price for staying in Somalia they retreated and withdrew without shame.

His excellency said: Do the evil ones believe that we can help them take hold of Iraq and humiliate people. They should not imagine that we, or the Iraqi people, will relinquish the historic opportunity for which our grandfathers struggled and were martyred. We struggle and sacrifice ourselves and those things we hold dear so that new and coming generations will live with pride, dignity, and honor.

These remarks were made by the leader president, may God preserve him, during his meeting with the chief editors of the Iraqi newspapers and magazines and with certain cultural and media cadres. The meeting was

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attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the presidential office; Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information; and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, president of the Cultural Association.

His excellency added: Iraq is now supported by the majority members of the Security Council. However, you should not imagine that the U.S. Administration is ashamed to face this majority. With our steadfastness, and with (?the activation of) our diplomacy, media, economy, and social life—each in its field—the blockade will be eroded. We are the ones who will foil the blockade and everything the evil ones wagered on.

Addressing the journalists, his excellency said: The most influential media are the media that do not follow traditional methods, that comprehend extraordinary circumstances and their contradictory manifestations, that pay attention to dialogue and (?mature) analyses, and that avoid provocations and adherence to conformity. We should always remember that freedom is a responsibility. Almighty God gave man a role, and at the same time, he gave him the freedom of choice. There are things we are allowed to do and there are restrictions, and there are rewards and punishments in life and in the afterlife. Therefore, man is responsible, not a just a creature. This principle prevails in all places at all times. Therefore, as long as we live we should adhere to the characteristics inherited from our grandfathers' values and to the characteristics we want to establish in the contemporary age.

His excellency said that the blockade will inevitably end and that God will (?reward) the patient Iraqis for their patience and jihad.

### U.S. Efforts To Put 'Saudi House in Order' Viewed

*JN2709181294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Sep 94 p 2*

["Standpoint" column by 'Adil Sa'd: "Saudi Arabia and the Upcoming Change"]

[Text] Has the countdown begun for arranging a quiet removal of Fahd from the helm of the Saudi monarchy?

Evidence to this effect is on the increase. News reports have said that the U.S. Administration is seeking Fahd's removal as part of its political and economic calculations regarding the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf.

News reports regarding possible political changes in Saudi Arabia are primarily carried by Western, and particularly U.S., media. For example, THE WASHINGTON POST has published a series of articles on the situation in Saudi Arabia and possible change there. Likewise, TIME magazine has followed suit. Similarly, the COMPASS, a political bulletin close to the U.S. National Security Council, has published reports confirming the deterioration of Fahd's health, as well as his imminent death. All this confirms that the U.S. Administration has a plan to bring about such a change, which is meant to achieve a host of harmonious objectives.

First, the U.S. Administration has realized, now more than ever before, that the current structure of the Saudi regime has become a liability, particularly in the aftermath of the crimes this regime has committed against the Arab people of Hejaz, Najd, and al-Hasa, and also after its perpetration of flagrant human rights violations. It is difficult for this imperialist administration to adapt itself to potentially unpredictable changes in this regard. Hence, it has reached the conclusion that effecting a political change that suits its world and regional policies has become essential, particularly since it professes to be an advocate of human rights in the world.

Second, the U.S. Administration has fears regarding the possible downfall of its agent regimes. This is a worrisome preoccupation. As for the Saudi regime, its has a legacy of agentry. It has committed crimes against the Arab nation and Islamic holy shrines, the last of which was the 30-state aggression against Iraq, not to mention its enmity toward the Palestine question. Moreover, this regime has concocted plots to consecrate division, differences, and estrangement among the Arab states. Likewise, it has committed more crimes due to the backward political system of government it has been pursuing, and also due to its notoriously repressive policies. All these reasons have prompted the U.S. Administration to work for a political change that suits it in a bid to perpetuate its monopolistic domination of the country and undermine the efforts of the Saudi popular forces, which have a stake in effecting a real, rather than marginal, change in Saudi Arabia.

Third, Iraq's steadfastness and its victory in the battle against the unfair sanctions, the victory of pro-unity forces in Yemen, and the exacerbation of concerns and fears for the future on the part of some Arabian Gulf regimes are all bound to bring about real U.S. concerns. Given all this, the Americans might have reached the conclusion that there is a need to put the "Saudi house" in order in line with these developments and to guard against any unfavorable future developments.

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### Rabin: Settlement Construction To Be 'Reexamined'

*TA2809111094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the decision to lift the freeze on land for construction in Alfey Menashe, which is located beyond the Green Line, would be reexamined. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Shulamit Aloni raised this issue at today's cabinet session. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer explained that the decision dealt with the planning stages for construction in Alfey Menashe. Ben- Eli'ezer asserted there was no reason to stop these plans.

As for the political negotiations, the prime minister said that progress had been made in the talks with Jordan. The prime minister added that there were positive signals from Syria and noted the good atmosphere at his latest meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

### Ben-Eli'ezer Sees 'No Problem' With Construction

*TA2809093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer sees no problem with authorizing construction in the settlements abutting the Green Line. The reference is to those settlements that Israel has a crucial interest in maintaining.

Ben-Eli'ezer explained that this was the reason behind the decision to free land for private construction in Alfey Menashe, a settlement that abuts the Green Line. The minister was speaking to Qol Yisra'el.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 September, in a similar report on page 1 by No'a Wasserman and news agencies, adds: "Ben- Eli'ezer said that Alfey Menashe is one of a number of settlements that are not negotiable as far as Israel is concerned. The minister said that this also applies to Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, and Giv'at Ze'ev. The Construction and Housing Ministry would free land for the building of hundreds of housing units in these settlements as part of its multiyear plan."]

### 'No Breakthroughs' Seen Before Christopher Visit

*TA2809070094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that there will be no breakthroughs in the peace process before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits Damascus. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Peres stressed that negotiations with Syria had not yet begun.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports on Foreign Minister Peres' meetings at the United Nations building in New York, some of which were held with the participation of Tami Arad [the wife of missing Israeli navigator Ron Arad].

[Begin recording] [Golan] When Tami Arad asked the Chinese Foreign Minister to use his influence in Tehran to find Ron Arad, it turned out that officials in Beijing had never heard about the captive Israeli navigator. The Chinese even asked how his name was spelled and whether he was a military serviceman or a civilian, as well as other questions. [passage omitted]

Another meeting, which had already been scheduled for next Monday [3 October], will be held at the White House among President Clinton, Crown Prince Hasan, and Foreign Minister Peres. The Israeli minister would not confirm reports that a breakthrough toward the signing of a Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement would be announced at this meeting.

[Peres] I hope we will make an important step toward the promotion and building of a valley of peace. We should formalize this and define its scope. We will discuss the water issue at length and try to reach agreements in the field of tourism. In short, we will promote the entire economic aspect in our relations with Jordan.

[Golan] There are reports that at the meeting a breakthrough will be announced and the participants will declare the imminent signing of a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel. Are these rumors correct?

[Peres] As a good Israeli, I can only say that time will tell. First of all we have to see what can be done and only then decide what to announce.

[Golan] Mr. Peres, what about Syria? What is going to happen?

[Peres] I believe that not much will happen before Mr. Christopher's trip to Damascus. The situation is a bit strange. The atmosphere is right, but the groundwork still has to be carried out. Practically speaking, both parties are preparing their respective publics for negotiations, but the negotiations themselves have still not begun.

[Golan] Under what conditions can negotiations begin? We all know that an Israeli decision to withdraw from the Golan Heights will probably constitute the real starter [preceding word in English].

[Peres] I do not think so. I do not believe that the process will begin by Israel's declaring unilaterally that it will withdraw from all of the Golan Heights and then starting negotiations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### PRC Asked To Aid in Restricting Missile Sales

*TA2709174594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres conducted talks with the foreign ministers of China, Britain, Canada, Spain, Norway, Holland, and with the presidents of Mexico and Romania. According to Qol Yisra'el's UN correspondent, Peres called on the Chinese foreign minister to use his influence to restrain Iran and

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to convince its ally North Korea to stop selling advanced missile technology to Iran and Syria. Peres also invited Beijing to take part in the major international economic conference on Middle East investments and development due to take place at the end of October in Casablanca.

At the beginning of Peres' meeting with the Chinese foreign minister, Tami Arad, the wife of Israeli POW Ron Arad, also took part and pleaded with the Chinese diplomat to use Beijing's good offices with Iran to press for the release of her husband. Our reporter adds that sources in Peres' delegation say there have been no contacts whatsoever with the Syrian delegation to arrange a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

### Peres Asks Menem To Use Influence With Damascus

*TA2709151994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred in New York today with Argentine's President Carlos Menem and asked him to use his influence in Damascus to raise the level of the talks with Israel. Peres called on Menem to help in arranging a Rabin-al-Asad meeting, which he accepted.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that Menem told Peres in their meeting that he has been invited to visit Syria in another two months after having been boycotted by Damascus for two years. Peres replied that there is a great deal of opposition in Israel to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and noted that Israel has been impressed by Syria's positive attitude to peace, but that the existing gaps still have to be bridged.

The Argentine president promised to make an intensive effort to capture those responsible for the bombing at the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires, and to prevent such actions in the future.

### Israeli Ambassador on Cooperation With Palestinians

*BR2709155794 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p 10*

[Interview with Ambassador to Spain Ya'aqov Kohen by Maria Dolores Masana; place and date not given: "The Palestinians Must Prove to the World That They Are Capable of Managing Their own Affairs"—first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[Text] One year after the Washington agreements were signed by 'Arafat and Rabin, following the rapprochement with Jordan, and with good prospects of reaching an understanding with Syria, Israel is experiencing one of its best moments in history since the creation of the Israeli state on Palestinian soil in 1947. This was the view expressed to LA VANGUARDIA by Ambassador Ya'aqov Kohen, who this week attended the official opening of his country's consulate in Barcelona.

[Kohen] Nobody believed that we would cover so much distance in such a short time. That is to say, today we have not only signed a statement of principles with the PLO, but we have actually put it into practice, with competences being transferred in such important fields as education, health, security, etc., and we are interested in following along this path. Of course there are some problems, because until now Palestinians had limited themselves to complaining about our performance in the occupied territories, whereas now they must begin to manage their own affairs, and prove to their people that they can be efficient. Of course we will have to help them—as far as economic development is concerned—and get help from the rest of the world, too. Another very important political success has been the agreement reached with Jordan. Just think that, in 1993, 93 out of the 96 deputies present in the Knesset approved the agreement. This is the right way ahead.

[Masana] Do you believe you may reach an agreement with Syria in the course of the year?

[Kohen] We have contacs with Syria. It will be much more difficult because the process involved is different. They have gradually realized that they cannot afford to sit on the fence. At first they held the mistaken idea that they could put pressure on Israel through third parties, that is, the United States. They have now reached the conclusion that secret and direct negotiations with Egypt, the Palestinians, and Jordan have led to positive results, and this is the only way forward now that the option of playing the USSR and the United States against each other is no longer available to them. Do they want the Golan heights? Our policy is to say no to "the" withdrawal from the Golan heights, but yes to "a" withdrawal from Golan. It will take longer, but I believe they are making a serious effort.

[Masana] On Thursday Yasir 'Arafat and former Israeli President Hayim Herzog will be sharing the platform at the Third World Congress on Economic Development, which will be held in Madrid next week. Will they be attending the meeting with some sort of common approach to major plans for the region, in which the IMF, the World Bank, and the international community are prepared to take part?

[Kohen] Next week is very important in this connection, because it is not only Herzog and 'Arafat who will be meeting in Madrid, but also the finance ministers of over 100 countries. Economic development is very important for peace. We, in particular, are already working with the Palestinians in five or six working groups with the involvement of experts to draw up concrete plans, for example, in the fields of tourism or education. An agreement has already been signed, and the initiator of this agreement will also be in Madrid. It was the finance minister who conducted the negotiations with Palestinian National Authority (PNA) representatives on such

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issues as taxes, country-of-origin labelling, and agricultural produce. Israel is going to open the Israeli market to agricultural produce from autonomous Palestine, and we are prepared to make a major effort because peace is priceless.

[Masana] Do you believe it would be appropriate for Spain to play a role in Palestine's reconstruction?

[Cohen] We think it would be very positive, because we have reached the conclusion that we cannot create an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty. Annual economic growth in Israel over the past five years has reached 5 percent. In order to continue along this path, we also need prosperity around us, among other reasons because there is a correlation between living standards and the level of violence. If living standards increase, the level of violence decreases, and vice versa. This is why we are very interested in two things: First, the international community investing in autonomous Palestine; and second, the Palestinians managing the resources properly so that living standards will rise.

[Masana] Will elections be held in November in the PNA territory?

[Kohen] We are conducting negotiations on how this can be done.

[Masana] Does 'Arafat represent a guarantee that the peace-making process will be successful, despite the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] radicals and other PLO groups who are criticizing the Washington agreements?

[Cohen] To date no other Palestinian leader has ever reached an agreement with Israel. To explain this an anecdote would be appropriate. When Churchill was 85, someone asked him: "How are you feeling?" He replied: "I feel very well, considering the alternative."

### Referendum Presented as Peace 'Package Deal'

*TA2809101594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 p 3*

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Washington correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government plans to hold a referendum about a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights only after the autonomy arrangements with the Palestinians have been expanded and a separate peace treaty has been signed with Jordan so as to present the public with a "package deal." In other words, Israelis will be asked to make up their minds whether they want to continue holding on to the Golan or attain peace on all fronts in exchange for returning the entire Golan Heights.

A secret report to this effect was recently relayed to the U.S. Administration in order to allay its fears and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's growing concern over mounting Israeli public protests against a withdrawal from the Golan.

In a bid to allay the U.S. and Syrian fears about the results of a referendum, the Israeli Government proposes to present the entire peace process to the public as hinging on the return of the Golan, in which case it believes the majority will choose the path of peace. U.S. Administration officials believe that the moment Israelis realize that an agreement with Syria will allow them to drive their cars to Europe through Turkey their opposition to a withdrawal from the Golan will vanish. [passage omitted]

### 'Draft Proposal' Sent on Jordanian-Israeli Treaty

*TA2809100594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 pp A1, A10*

[Report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, political sources claimed that Israel had sent Jordan a draft proposal for a peace treaty between the two countries a few weeks ago. Contacts on the peace treaty are being held through a secret channel, which is separate from the official negotiations track.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, held several meetings on this matter with Crown Prince Hasan and with his counterpart Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation.

According to the sources, Jordan has still not accepted the Israeli proposal, nor has agreement been reached with regard to the differences on water issues. The Israeli proposal includes principles to resolve the water and border issues. Sources at the prime minister's bureau yesterday asserted that recent reports on a breakthrough in the talks with Jordan "had caused serious damage and may torpedo the entire move."

The main obstacle to a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel is Jordan's demand that Israel allocate 7 percent of its water for consumption to Jordan. Israeli sources in Washington said that if Jordan toned down its demands in this area then King Husayn and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin could meet soon to sign a peace agreement in the Middle East or at the White House. The sources stated that great progress had been made over the past few days toward resolving the territorial differences between the two countries. Both parties have made use of a quiet negotiations track to discuss the possibility of exchanging territories. The sources noted that Foreign Minister Peres' meeting with Crown Prince Hasan at the White House on Monday was not expected to go beyond a declaration of intents, seeing as Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will not cede the honor of being present at a prestigious occasion, such as the signing of a peace treaty, to Foreign Minister Peres. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 September in a page 2 report by correspondents Hayim Shibi in Washington and Tzadoq Yehezqeli in New York writes that "Jordan has clarified to the United States and

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Israel that it will be prepared to sign a full peace agreement with Israel without any connection to developments on the Syrian track."

[Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, who is currently visiting Washington, confirmed the report to YEDI'OT AHARONOT. "We will complete the negotiations with Israel and both countries will sign a peace treaty," the minister said. Al-'Anani added that "King Husayn hopes to visit Jerusalem soon." The report notes that "sources in Foreign Minister Peres' delegation in New York revealed that the United States is currently making serious efforts to prepare a timetable for reaching a full peace agreement between Jordan and Israel." "The Americans are very optimistic on this," a member of Peres' entourage said, "it is now clear to both the Americans and us that the Jordanians have no intention of waiting for Syria."]

### Egyptian Tourism Minister Arrives

*TA2809110894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji arrived in Israel from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge. The meeting between the Jordanian, Egyptian, and Israeli tourism ministers was not held as planned.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Muhammad al-'Adwan said he could not cross the Allenby Bridge because it was under the control of the Palestinian Authority. He nevertheless said that he was prepared to meet his Egyptian and Israeli counterparts tomorrow in al-'Aqabah.

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that as far as he was concerned, the meeting could take place in al-'Aqabah on 30 September.

The Egyptian and Israeli tourism ministers have now left to attend a reception at the president's house in Jerusalem.

### Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Bahrain

*TA2809072194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry delegation has left for Bahrain to prepare for multilateral talks on the environment. The delegation is led by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Yosi Gal. The talks are scheduled to take place at the end of next month. Israel is planning to propose a number of regional environmental projects.

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## Egyptian Tourism Minister Arrives on Visit

### Meets Prime Minister

*JN2709160594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Egyptian Tourism Minister Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji in his office at the Prime Ministry at noon today. Jordanian Tourism and Antiquities Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed ways to enhance relations between both fraternal countries as well as joint ventures in the tourism field and means to activate further cooperation. Dr. al-Biltaji talked to reporters about his meeting with the prime minister and about the Jordanian-Egyptian talks held at the Ministry of Tourism this morning. He said:

[Begin al-Biltaji recording] The talks were indeed excellent and profound, and there was an accurate exchange of information, ideas, and experiences. A joint will for close cooperation between sisterly Jordan and Egypt in the field of tourism was crystallized. We care about both the tourist industry in Egypt and in Jordan, and we believe that this is a very important industry, which is capable of bringing in greater revenue and thus making further contributions to economic and social development.

In fact, we discussed many issues regarding bilateral cooperation as an agreement was actually signed in 1986. We listened to a distinguished, accurate, and detailed briefing on the recent developments between sisterly Jordan and Israel concerning the general ideas raised in this regard. I had the honor of meeting with the prime minister. We discussed common issues and listened to his distinguished ideas. We agreed in general to establish continuity and to set up a workshop [preceding word in English] or a working group representing the Egyptian official and private tourism sectors and their Jordanian counterparts, so we can entrench our will practically by achieving further cooperation between both countries. [end recording]

Dr. al-'Adwan also talked about the session of talks with the Egyptian side. He said:

[Begin al-'Adwan recording] It was a very useful session of talks. We achieved good and positive results and decided to activate the previous tourism agreements signed with fraternal Egypt. We also decided to set up an expert committee and establish institutional channels of communication between the Egyptian and Jordanian private sectors. Moreover, we discussed the issue of bilateral consultations and coordination in order to realize regional cooperation in the coming phase. [end recording]

### Received by King Husayn

*JN2709175994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Egyptian Tourism Minister Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Egyptian minister relayed to his majesty the king the greetings of his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

During the meeting, they discussed means of promoting cooperation in tourism between Jordan and Egypt in the wake of the new climate of stability that is becoming a new reality in the region and in light of the tourist attraction sites in the two fraternal states.

His majesty the king asked the guest minister to relay his greetings to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The meeting was attended by Tourism and Antiquities Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan and the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan.

## Al-'Anani on Peace Process, Arab Ties

*JN2709141394 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 4*

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani by AL-BILAD correspondent 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib on 19 September; place not given]

[Text] [Al-Khatib] His majesty the king has said more than once that Jordan is targeted by outside sides. Can you reveal these sides to us?

[Al-'Anani] We are talking about a world which is governed by interests, not by principles or balances of power. Therefore, when there are rifts in any country, it will make it vulnerable to schemes while it is experiencing a stage of great changes.

In light of this, we are not talking about any side in particular, but about a specific phenomenon. The region is currently witnessing geographical changes, and the main pillar of any state is its internal cohesion so it does not become a pawn on the others' chess board, whoever that maybe. We, in the Middle East, are experiencing a peace process and a stage of geographical transformations, in which new states emerging, and we might see splits within other states. All these circumstances necessitate that each country safeguard its identity and sovereignty so it will not become, in the calculations of others who seek to reorganize the region to achieve their own interests, a weak point which facilitates changing its geography. This is exactly what we mean, and there is no specific side. We are talking about a current phenomenon in the region.

[Al-Khatib] During his recent visit to the Council of Ministers, his majesty the king called for taking measures and making arrangements to avoid discrimination

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among citizens, and to safeguard national unity. Can you tell us about the government's measures and arrangements to implement the king's instructions, particularly measures to avoid discrimination among citizens?

[Al-'Anani] In fact, his majesty the king considers himself a king and a father of all citizens in Jordan. He does not discriminate or favor one side against another. His job is represented by safeguarding balance in the Jordanian society. Every member of this society who holds a Jordanian citizenship must be treated as a Jordanian until he himself decides otherwise. Therefore, his majesty the king wanted to prove that the Jordanian regime derives its strength from national unity. Usually, his majesty leaves the issue to the governments to decide on the best means to implement his instructions. The government will do its best to achieve justice, right, and equality. Within the next few days, it will make a host of decisions which will be announced to the public.

[Al-Khatib] Regarding this point in particular, will the Jordanian citizen not be asked, when he submits an employment application to a government department, to write the name of his home town or that of his father?

[Al-'Anani] As I told you, I do not want to answer your question specifically, because I cannot give an answer on behalf of the government because it has not yet made such a decision. However, I want to say that his majesty the king's message was very clear. From now on, we do not want to feel this discrimination which does not come from laws, legislations, or the Constitution, but from practices and social bonds, such as preferring a relative to a stranger, or a citizen from one's immediate area to someone from another area.

[Al-Khatib] Perhaps, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government is the most controversial government in the Jordanian political street. Political observers say that the time is now ripe for this government to leave. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Anani] This is their own interpretation, and interpretations are based on various reasons. Some believe that the departure of this government will give them a certain chance, and someone may call on it to leave because he requested something which was not given to him, or something like this. However, I agree with you that this government has been very brave. It has made a series of difficult and complicated decisions since its formation. It encountered the elections campaign, the confidence session, the sales tax law, the peace process, tax reforms, debts, and the increase in the prices of some commodities. None of these issues is easy. We believe that all these issues are necessitated by the current stage. It is natural that all these issues be controversial. Some of these issues could change an entire government. However, I would like to ask: Is it not better for a government which encounters such issues and succeeds in tackling them to stay in power than to leave?

Ruling a country entails certain responsibilities. Anyone who makes a decision should bear the consequences of his decision. I think that bearing responsibility for any decision bravely is better than avoiding making decisions.

I will serve in my post until the very end. When the cabinet is reshuffled, for reasons determined by the decisionmaker—his majesty the king, then I will resign my post and a new group will come in to assume these responsibilities. This group will find that it will have to make some difficult and complex decisions, and the public will be divided as to how they view this group. This is because we are going through a stage of change and the climate is ripe for different views and interpretations.

[Al-Khatib] Turning to the issue of negotiations, when will the Jordanian public see specific results on the ground, such as Israel's withdrawal from our occupied territory and the restoration of our water rights, etc.? Do you feel that the government was mistaken when it started normalization before reaching concrete results?

[Al-'Anani] I agree with you that results will be felt when the land and water are actually restored. However, when the Israeli negotiator tells his Jordanian counterpart: Yes, you have a right to restore your territory and water, then the Jordanian negotiator deems this as progress. I am fully confident that our territorial and water rights will be restored in full.

In this regard, I say that the requirements for peace are the opening of borders, diplomatic relations, and normalization to a certain degree, such as the opening of crossing points and using the other party's airspace. However, we should keep in mind that we have only adopted two decisions in the direction of the so-called normalization: opening crossing points "the southern crossing point," and telephone contacts.

As for the telephone contacts, if we check the telephone contacts record, we will find that 90 percent of the calls were made with relatives in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, whose telephone service is linked with that of Israel. In the past, these calls were made via a third party at very high rates. As for the crossing points, these were not opened for the Israelis. They were opened for third-country nationals. We have not created anything new, because there was traffic on the bridges in the past and because Jordan is the only country that has maintained open bridges with the kin in the West Bank. Our citizens, and bearers of other nationalities, have always used these bridges. The only new thing is the use of the airspace, and so far only his majesty the king has used this airspace. We should not say normalization and stop there without thinking about this issue carefully. Our view of what has happened is that Jordan is ready for the peace process if it attains all of its rights.

[Al-Khatib] Does this mean that the Jordanian Government has not yet normalized [its relations with Israel]?

[Al-'Anani] This has absolutely not happened. I believe that the people are now happy because they can contact their relatives in the West Bank and Gaza directly.

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[Al-Khatib] What is the current status of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations then?

[Al-'Anani] As I have told you, during the last round in Tiberias City, there were serious discussions on the issues of water and territory. We have started talking with the Israeli side about the method to regain our territorial and water rights. We have started to discuss the core of the issue. This has made me more optimistic than ever before.

[Al-Khatib] Apparently, Jordanian-Syrian relations are not fine. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has recently criticized Jordan, accusing it of pursuing a unilateral solution. How do you view Jordanian-Syrian relations?

[Al-'Anani] I do not see any retreat in relations between the two countries, and there are no signs of this. Trade is still going on smoothly; people are still traveling to Syria freely; and all joint companies between the countries are still operating smoothly. So there are no signs of any retreat in this relationship, except for the statements we sometimes hear.

I do not wish to cite the comments of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' because I am not fully aware of these comments. However, I listened to the speech delivered by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the inaugural session of People's Assembly. What I heard was a speech to the Syrian people. He said "Syria knew its weight with the other negotiator and had they made use of this strength, their negotiating position would have been better."

I do not want to discuss what President al-Asad said. Jordan has always been ready to coordinate with the Syrian brothers. We are aware of their weight in the negotiating process. We have made gains, and Jordan is going in the right direction regarding its rights.

I do not believe that relations will be impaired even if we admit that we maintain different opinions and interpretations.

[Al-Khatib] Do you expect any acceleration on the Syrian-Israeli track later this year?

[Al-'Anani] Signs indicate that the Syrian track is active and that negotiations are being held through an American intermediary. If there are no signs of detente on this track, then why all this intensive diplomatic action and mediation, why would Dennis Ross come to the region, and why will Christopher come next month?

It is clear that the focus is shifting to the Syrian track. I believe that something is going to happen, but I cannot tell when.

[Al-Khatib] Regarding inter-Arab relations, recent days have witnessed an improvement in Jordanian-Saudi relations and possibly in Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations. Will the iceberg that has been straining inter-Arab relations since the Gulf war melt?

[Al-'Anani] I believe that the gap and differences between the Arab countries have narrowed. They began to realize that friendship with a certain country should not necessarily be at the expense of another country. Each state affects, and is affected by, a group of countries with which it has relations.

I do not know why the Arabs set conditions for relations. An Arab state does not establish relations with another state unless its relations with some other states are impaired. I believe that we should overcome this trend in the Arab homeland. Otherwise, we will not be able to achieve any understanding.

There are positive signs, however. Kuwaiti officials received warmly and exchanged views with the adviser at the Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait. Therefore, we have turned over a new leaf. Every time we, in the Jordanian Government, sense a readiness for a constructive dialogue, we respond positively. After three years of estrangement with the Gulf states, we do not want "oil-motivated relations." We do not need such a relationship. We want objective and stable relations in which every side gives and takes. We do not want Jordan's relations with the Gulf states to be based only on oil, hard currency, and job opportunities for Jordanians—relations in which we will be the less important side. I believe that our brothers in the Gulf refuse to be treated simply as rich people.

Future relations should be based on joint interests and mutual respect between the two sides because each side has objective interests in these relations. If estrangement leads to future relations on these bases, then we will have succeeded and our bitter experience in Jordan will have yielded fruit.

[Al-Khatib] Libya is calling for an Arab summit conference in Cairo. What is Jordan's position, and how will it respond to this call?

[Al-'Anani] We have never departed from Arab consensus. If there are objective reasons for the summit, Jordan will be the first to attend.

[Al-Khatib] What does the Jordanian Government want from the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and what will it say to the Palestinian delegation that will visit Amman, particularly regarding the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-'Anani] We, in Jordan, have accepted the agreements between the Palestinians and the Israelis. However, we still have our responsibilities, which we have shouldered since the disengagement decision and the 1974 Rabat summit. Our responsibility toward the holy places, particularly in Jerusalem, is one of these responsibilities. And this one is particularly serious because we are not the only party to this.

We have suffered a great deal from attempts by some religious parties in Israel to encroach on the holy shrines. We have confronted decisions passed by Israeli courts

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and the "Temple Guards," who have tried to exploit any gap in the process of transferring the powers from Jordan to the Palestinians to seize the holy places.

We should agree first on whether or not we want to entrench rights before making any political gains. We cannot leave this issue to chance or allow a lack of accurate and thorough arrangements, otherwise the consequences will be detrimental.

Putting Jordan under pressure through Islamic conferences and demands for cooperation with this or that party is rejected. We will reiterate our concern for continuing our role until we are reassured that the rights will become the responsibility of a party that we believe has a right to control the holy places.

[Al-Khatib] Will this party be the PNA?

[Al-'Anani] Let it be so. We are not against this. However, nothing, even in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements, says that they have agreed on this.

Jordan cannot accept this now while the taxation department, which was transferred from the Israelis to the PNA, still requires continued Israeli supervision for six more months until the PNA finds the cadres to run it.

Jerusalem is not a game; it is a great trust. We will be very frank and clear with the Palestinians in this regard.

[Al-Khatib] Regarding Haiti and the U.S. intervention there—and in light of your proposal to dispatch "international police" to Haiti—do you agree with the U.S. military intervention in that country?

[Al-'Anani] Never. We, in Jordan, do not want any people in the world to suffer. We support each country's sovereignty. We do not participate in international decisionmaking, except to a limited extent. When we were asked to make a humanitarian contribution and play a supervisory role, we agreed. Jordan will be happy if a solution is reached and the legitimate authority returns to Haiti. The important thing is the restoration of democratic life to Haiti. If this happens and we are asked to play a humanitarian role we will be ready to play such a role because we played similar roles in other parts of the world.

I would like to say here that if we want to continue to play a humanitarian role, we cannot reject any request to give humanitarian assistance. We categorically refused to participate in the invasion.

[Al-Khatib] You, therefore, do not agree on the military invasion?

[Al-'Anani] I do not want to declare a political stand on this issue. I only want to say that, at the present time, the Jordanian role will be geared toward the humanitarian aspect in terms of a limited number of Jordanian security men.

[Al-Khatib] Would you accept an invitation to visit Israel?

[Al-'Anani] I was invited many times in the past, but I rejected these invitations. I cannot make any visit at all before the achievement of a full and just peace.

## Cabinet Issues Decisions on Role in Jerusalem

*JN2709185294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry at noon today and met with the prime minister in the presence of the Royal Court chief. His majesty then chaired part of the Cabinet meeting to express his pride and appreciation for all the efforts exerted by the government in terms of services and construction for the wellbeing of Jordan and the nation.

His majesty noted that the peace talks have continued moving toward a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution, adding that all high-level Jordanian-Israeli contacts have taken place within the framework of the Washington Declaration with the aim of proceeding on our clear path to guarantee the return of our full rights to our lands and waters. They also aim, he said, at tackling all issues included in the agenda to achieve security, stability, and opportunities for an honorable life for our good people who have offered many sacrifices.

His majesty said: A number of statements, stands, and decisions have appeared recently regarding the situation of Islamic awqaf affairs and courts in the West Bank. Many contacts and attempts have also been made to pressure and harass the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry officials there. This has taken place while the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was undertaking its uninterrupted historic role in caring for the holy places and supporting the kinfolk's steadfastness. Some officials in the Palestinian Authority have made many attempts to fabricate a conflict with the Kingdom regarding its legitimate historic role, which has safeguarded the Islamic Arab identity of the holy places in the occupied territory. They have also attempted to show that there is a conflict over powers and responsibilities by assigning an official in charge of Islamic awqaf and courts without coordinating with the Kingdom and without even informing it in advance.

His majesty asked the Council of Ministers to take measures that will put an end to the attempts aimed at fabricating differences and conflict. He affirmed that the decisions made in this regard should not in any way harm the relations of brotherhood between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, or affect the support and facilities presented by the government to the kinfolk in all fields.

The Council of Ministers has examined the sublime royal directives, and issued the following decisions:

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First, in light of the uniqueness of the eternal city of Jerusalem; in view of the coercive circumstances of the city; in continuation of the Hashemite Jordanian role in terms of the care extended to the city and the efforts made to protect its holy shrines from any danger or tampering; and to guard against the possible exploitation of any emerging vacuum, the Jordanian Government, given the Hashemite religious and historical custodianship it has enjoyed over the holy shrines, has decided that it will continue to assume its legal and administrative responsibilities for Islamic awqaf affairs, for the holy shrines, and for the religious judicial system in holy Jerusalem.

Second, the awqaf directorates and religious courts in the West Bank, except Jerusalem, shall be covered by the decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank issued in 1988. Consequently, the statute that provided for the abolishment of government institutions in the West Bank, No. 28 of 1988, shall be amended to achieve this purpose.

Third, all rights of the employees working at awqaf directorates and religious courts in the West Bank, except Jerusalem, shall be properly addressed and safeguarded in accordance with Jordanian rules and regulations. Their efforts are immensely appreciated for the responsibilities they have shouldered and the honorable sacrifices they have made to protect the nation's awqaf and holy shrines in the occupied territories.

While finding itself compelled to make these decisions due to recent developments, the Council of Ministers, in implementation of the directives of leader Husayn, may God protect him, would like to underscore the eagerness of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to maintain the ties of fraternity and solidarity with the kinfolk in the occupied territories, to continue to aid and support them, and to extend every possible assistance to them. The Kingdom will not allow any party to undermine the strong relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on the two banks of the eternal river.

When His Majesty King Husayn visited the Prime Ministry, the prime minister, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the House' Agricultural Committee were convening a meeting. They were honored by shaking his hand.

## Prince's Belief in 'Consolidating Democracy' Noted

*JN2709175594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has affirmed that Jordan would be committed to work towards achieving peace and consolidate democracy, human rights, and free trade in the Middle East.

His royal highness called for positively addressing the human, economic, and social challenges facing the Middle East after the post-peace era.

His highness said that a satisfactory settlement of the questions of security, borders, and water required achieving a balance that would fulfill the legal, political, and development considerations.

His royal highness's remarks were made in a lecture, delivered on his behalf by Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani at Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Council of Middle East Policy, and John Kennedy Academy at Harvard University.

## 'Attempt' To Revoke UN Resolutions Criticized

*JN2709134194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Sep 94 pp 1, 27*

[Editorial: "A Disagreeable Stand and a False Pretext"]

[Text] The request submitted by the U.S. representative to the UN General Assembly to rescind the international organization's resolutions on the Middle East is an unprecedented U.S. stand in terms of the degree of its blind bias toward Israel. This U.S. stand is so biased that it can be described as more Israeli than the stands adopted by Israel itself.

The pretext with which the U.S. representative tried to cover her country's shortsighted stand is uglier than the attempt to revoke the UN resolutions. She tried to justify this blunt call by talking about harmony with the current developments of the Middle East peace process.

Out of their desire to attain peace and do all they can to help push the peace process forward and remove all obstacles, the concerned Arab parties agreed to postpone to another stage of negotiations the discussion of many sticky issues that could have thwarted the desired progress, such as the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, and others. Tempted by this Arab stand, which demonstrated goodwill and sincerity to the peace process, the United States, the peace sponsor, moved away from the essence of this stand and called for rescinding all UN resolutions, just as it did when it rescinded that UN resolution which equated Zionism with racism.

We call on the Arab foreign ministers, who will convene on the sidelines of the General Assembly's session, to stand against this American attempt, which is designed to undermine the basis of the international terms of reference for the Middle East conflict. We hope that the Arabs will realize that this excessive U.S. disregard of Arab rights and interests is the result of the current state of Arab disintegration and nothing else.

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## Buwayz Addresses UN General Assembly Session

*NC2809081294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0616 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Speech by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to the UN General Assembly session in New York on 27 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After its land and people were overwhelmed by the storms of international and regional conflicts and the hurricanes of international ideological differences and their complexities, Lebanon proved again that it can resist challenges and that the formula for coexistence is firmer and more solid than anyone thought. This is because it is the only formula that is possible. It is inevitable. After overcoming others' war on its territory with the will of its people and the support of its brothers, after consolidating its internal security and stability, after activating its national dialogue and removing barriers among territories, factions, and forces, after rebuilding its institutions, rehabilitating its infrastructure, and unleashing its political and economic march, Lebanon is again proving that it is too ancient to be wiped out and too strong to be canceled out.

But its full sovereignty over its entire territory and its viable independence cannot be complete while much of its land remains isolated from the call of the homeland, while the state remains unable to extend its full authority over its land by means of its legitimate forces, while Israel continues to occupy its territory despite the repeated UN resolutions and the will of the international community, and while the Lebanese continue to suffer in Israeli detention camps. These camps are kept away from the eyes of the world and its humanitarian organizations, which are not even allowed to visit them. The wound will not heal and the bleeding will not stop as long as this occupation of over one-eighth of our national soil continues, as long as the almost daily Israeli raids cover the land with bombs, mines, and booby-trapped objects for which children pay with their lives, as long as criminal acts are committed against a people that refuse to surrender, and as long as women and children are crying. The crying will continue to fill the world with grief, anger, uprising, and resistance.

Every means of controlling this anger by the occupier has failed. Not one day passes without more people getting killed on our side and the other side. Blood is watering the land of south Lebanon and al-Biqa'. All the technological, military, and security inventions fail to overcome a people who seek freedom, sovereignty, independence, and peace. Over 300 Lebanese men and women are suffering in Israeli prisons. Some have died and others have [word indistinct]. From their cells they hear of a theory called human rights. It is a theory that is widely debated at our conferences and forums and by our theoreticians, who discuss the rights of plants, animals, and environment, while those in prison wonder about the species to which they belong. As long as the international community treats world problems with various standards and measures, as long as Security Council resolutions remain unimplemented, and as long as Chapter 7 [of the UN Charter] applies only to some troublemakers of world security who lack cover, we will remain distant from the message of the United Nations. We have waited long for the attention of the international community and the implementation of UN Resolution 425 only to see the Security Council decline to condemn the aggression. If it did condemn, both the aggressor and the victim would be condemned under the claim of encouraging the peace negotiations.

We were invited to the peace conference in Madrid so we accepted the invitation, the sponsorship, and the substance of the invitation as a good omen. This is because the sponsorship came from two influential superpowers and because the substance was based on a durable, comprehensive, and just peace in accordance with the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. We have taken advice to join this mechanism, because accepting the invitation means accepting the substance. What was required of us was to discuss the mechanism and the timetable. Today, over three years have passed since the Madrid conference. Months were spent awaiting the results of parliamentary elections, months awaiting presidential elections, months waiting for the internal situation to be ready, months awaiting circumstances that might consolidate the position of some parties, and months spent in separate negotiations seeking to isolate some parties and conclude separate deals with others.

We moved then among Madrid, Washington, Paris, Oslo, Moscow and nearly every world capital. But we are still negotiating the basic principles that were supposed to have been established at the beginning. The land-for-peace principle is still awaiting definition of the land concept. And the withdrawal principle remains vague. In the form it is being presented, withdrawal still conceals something more than continuing occupation, though in different forms. The principle of negotiating peace in exchange for land, which requires balancing in negotiating papers, is being emptied of its meaning through constant pressure so that Arab negotiators will have no more cards left with which to negotiate.

We are being asked to efface resistance without any guarantee of liberation or withdrawal. We are being asked to call off the boycott without any guarantees for restoring rights. We are being asked to participate in the multilaterals before learning whether peace will really happen and what its form and substance will be. We are being asked to shake hands and celebrate without knowing why we are celebrating. We are being asked to understand positions and reassure the local people in other states as if we do not have our own people to convince and as if no one in our country is opposed to that peace and our inclination toward it. We are being asked to provide security guarantees for the aggressor when we are the aggrieved party. Those who have no

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weapons are being asked to reassure those who own nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Yes, we engaged in negotiations for peace. But it should be an honorable rather than a guilty peace, a balanced rather than biased peace, and a just, not unjust, peace. We seek a comprehensive peace rather than a piecemeal peace, a real rather than ceremonial peace, a fair rather than unfair peace, natural rather than artificial peace, and a lasting peace rather than a divided peace. We want peace among the peoples, not among regimes, a peace that we take pride in rather than one of which we are ashamed. We want a peace of gratitude rather than of ingratitude to our martyrs, a peace that returns the refugee rather than prolongs his ordeal, a peace that appeases rather than inflames the rebellious, a peace that we protect and from which we draw strength. We want the peace that relieves the world of the burden of our region, the peace that no longer exports anger. We want a peace of development, that flourishes, and that is stable. We want a peace that ends widows' pains.

Gentlemen, the age in which peoples' problems were confined within their borders has passed. The age in which geographic and political borders were walls that separate mankind is over. This is the age of interaction and movement. It is the age in which every barrier falls. Today, no matter how far a state might be from disturbance, it will remain vulnerable to the repercussions as well as to other people's demographic problems. Borders and barriers no longer work.

Unless these problems are solved at source, any state will remain vulnerable to nuclear, chemical, and biological contamination. As long as there are no barriers in the air, it will remain vulnerable to environmental destruction because mountains do not obstruct air, nature does not obstruct the flow of water, and the world will remain open to man.

Everyone is concerned, regardless of how or where the catastrophe happens. We are concerned with this world's security, its health, stability, prosperity, resources, needs, requirements, markets, and its citizens everywhere.

It is time this East stopped being a raging volcano. It is time for it to stop threatening world peace. It is time for it to stop challenging the world's security. It is time for it to stop being a source of concern for the international economy. It is time for it to stop exporting its anger and resentment. It is time to end the continuing occupation of its territories and stop the constant aggression. It is time to end the suffering of detainees in prisons. It is time to stop the blood feeding the land of the prophets. It is time to lift the blackness engulfing the birthplace of heavenly missions.

This east will have no more serious opportunities than those it has today. Time will not remain on the side of the peaceseekers forever. This east must bring forth farsighted people, as it has always done, not merchants of negotiations and experts in maneuvering. [passage omitted]

## Hizballah Source Confirms Attacks on Officials

*NC2709175794 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 16 Sep 94 p 4*

[Excerpts] A Hizballah media source has stated that the house of Muhammad Ni'mah Nasir, official in charge of Hizballah cadres in Haddathah was subjected to a treacherous rocket attack on Wednesday [14 September]. Nasir, his wife, and child escaped miraculously after their house received a direct hit.

Commenting on the attack, his eminence Shaykh Nabil Qawuq, official in charge of Hizballah's Consultative Council in the south, said: "This attack is a new crime committed against our kinfolk and mujahidin in the south. It serves the objectives of the Israeli enemy and his tools." [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, another Hizballah media source said that Sa'id al-'Ali, Hizballah official in Haris, was shot in the head and seriously injured. He was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

## Shelling, Attacks on Patrol, Tank in South

*NC2709180894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 94*

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces continued today their assaults on southern villages and citizens, shelling Jabal al-Rafi', al-Jabal al-Akhdar, the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and Nab' al-Tasah. The enemy forces used incendiary bombs and 120-mm and 155-mm shells in their bombardment.

The Islamic resistance retaliated by detonating an explosive device under a patrol of Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army] on the Kafr Falus road, destroying an armored troop carrier, and killing or wounding its members. Following this operation, the Voice of the South, the agent militia's mouthpiece, admitted the operation saying that a troop carrier had been damaged and three of its members had sustained various injuries.

At 1320 today, an Amal group detonated an explosive device under a T-54 tank belonging to Lahd's militia on the road between 'Alman and Dayr Siryan. A subsequent statement by the Amal Movement stated that a civilian vehicle belonging to the agents arrived on the scene of the explosion and evacuated the wounded to al-Tayyibah.

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## Afghanistan

### President Participates in Cabinet Session

*LD2709225994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Proposed by the government's members, the cabinet's extraordinary consultative session was held today. The session was attended by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The press office of the Council of Ministers reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that esteemed Deputy Prime Minister Mowlawi Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani first spoke in detail about the problems facing the Prime Ministry, the ministries, and the relevant departments, as well as about the manner of approaching the issues and the system of improving affairs [words indistinct]. He also presented (?a report) about the economy, organizational, and security issues. [words indistinct]

The esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan gave the following instruction:

In order to restore security and to safeguard the public property and assets in the enterprises and departments, the duties of the security organs, above all, should be classified. The security of the departments and the task of restoring security in Kabul city must be undertaken by a single organ.

Keeping in mind the approaching winter season, the esteemed president gave the instruction that the government, in attracting cooperation by the national traders and people, should have necessary preparedness in supplying and in transporting fuel and basic material required by the Kabul citizens. The government should take special and practical measures in this regard.

Regarding the country's political issues and national and international developments, the esteemed president of Afghanistan, gave an assignment to the cabinet to prepare a general and comprehensive draft about the restoration of peace and (?how) to resolve the country's political issues.

### Dostam Pledges To Win War With Turkish Help

*TA2609160294 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1510 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Text] Mazar-e Sharif/Northern Afghanistan, Sept 26 (A.A.)—Leader of the northern Afghanistan fighters Gen. 'Abdol Rashid Dostam said on Monday that "we will win this war with the pride and determination of being Turkish and with support of Turkey" he added.

Dostam told A.A. that he was the political and military leader of more than five million Turkish people in northern Afghanistan "several forces aimed at splitting up our country but they will not succeed" he added. [sentence as received]

"Our war continued despite the hard conditions" Dostam said adding that "Turks living in Afghanistan will not accept anything by forceful means and we are ready to die if necessary".

Dostam said all countries in Central Asia depend on Turkey "Turkey is the leader of these countries" he added.

"We have rich natural gas and petroleum resources but we do not have the technology to use it" he said adding that "we are also waiting for help from Turkey on these issues".

### Welcomes Iran's Peace Efforts

*LD2409162594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Sep 94*

[Text] General Dostam, leader of Afghanistan's National Islamic movement, met with a special envoy of the Iranian foreign minister to Afghanistan and said he welcomes every effort by Iran to establish peace in Afghanistan.

He said: We believe a solution that respects the rights of all groups and ethnic groups could establish peace in Afghanistan, and the proposals put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran covers all aspects of the situation.

### Factional Fighting Continues in Kabul Region

#### Attack on Kabul Kills 58

*LD2709154894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam-Mazari militiamen once again soiled the innocent people with blood today, causing the martyrdom of 58 persons. Another 224 persons were injured.

Quoting a Kabul garrison spokesman and eyewitnesses, BAKHTAR reported that the Golboddin-Dostam-Mazari militiamen again fired over 100 rockets and shells from the western and southwestern directions at the residential and crowded areas of Kabul city today, causing the martyrdom of 58 defenseless citizens and injuring another 226 [figure as heard] people.

[Passage indistinct] The rockets also destroyed five residential buildings. [passage indistinct]

#### Governor Claims Hekmatyar Defeat

*LD2709212294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] In a message of congratulation addressed to the country's president and supreme commander of the

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Islamic Army of Afghanistan, esteemed Mawlawi 'Abdol Latif Mansur, governor of Paktia, informed the president of the defeat of Golboddin's militiamen following their attack on mojahedin positions in Jaji, Paktia province.

The message says: Golboddin's militiamen recently embarked on a broad attack on mojahedin positions in Jaji district. The attack was foiled and the militiamen completely defeated by the resistance of the jihadi regiment of Paktia.

According to another report the people organized a demonstration in Khowst city at which they called for the withdrawal of Golboddin's militiamen from their province. At this demonstration the people denounced the launching of rockets on Kabul city by Golboddin and expressed their readiness to repulse any future attack on their areas by Golboddin's militiamen. Mowlawi 'Abdol Hakim spoke at this rally. He described the fighting by Golboddin against the Islamic State of Afghanistan as illegitimate and called Golboddin a criminal rebel.

### 'Dozens' of Militiamen Killed

*LD2709171294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Dozens of Golboddin-Dostam militiamen have been killed in various clashes that took place in several locations.

A security source told BAKHTAR that as a result of today's clashes with Golboddin-Dostam militiamen that flared up in Sholgara district, Balkh province; Dara-ye Suf, Samangan province; and Khenjan, Baghlan province, 25 militiamen were killed and another 18 were injured.

One enemy tank was set on fire in the Khenjan area and its passengers were killed. During these clashes, the mojahedin of the Islamic Army seized 10 heavy weapons of various kinds belonging to the militiamen, together with a large quantity of ammunition.

### Rocket Hits Pakistani Embassy

*BK2809020094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] At least 70 people were killed and 250 injured in the fighting between rival groups in the Afghan capital of Kabul yesterday. Forty people were killed when a rocket slammed into the (Qala-ye Saifollah), where a wedding ceremony was in progress. Another rocket landed in a busy street, killing three people and wounding several others. Radio Kabul reports that more than 100 rockets and mortar shells were fired at the capital. The radio also reports fighting in Balkh, Konduz, and Baghlan provinces.

A rocket landed in the premises of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul, but, fortunately, all members of the staff escaped unhurt. Yesterday, six rockets fell close to the outer side of the Embassy's premises, while the seventh rocket hit the outer wall of the Embassy's building, smashing windows and causing considerable damage to the roof of a chancery building.

## India

### Srinivasan Views Kashmir, Nonproliferation Treaty

*BK2309165494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 94*

[Text] India is confident of success in facing any situation in the event of Pakistan moving a resolution on the Kashmir issue at the annual session of the UN General Assembly. The foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, told newsmen in New Delhi that such a resolution will be faced with determination.

Replying to a question, he said New Delhi has an open mind in associating itself with the preparatory talks on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty next year. He said several countries have supported India's view that the present treaty is discriminatory. Mr. Srinivasan said that the Indian side has told the four-nation Missile Technology Control Regime delegation that the Indian space program is outside the scope of the agenda of discussion.

### Spokesman Supports Butrus-Ghali's Views on Kashmir

*BK2709135594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] New Delhi has endorsed the UN secretary general's view that India and Pakistan should resolve their bilateral issue through dialogue under the Simla Agreement. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that India has noted Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's reference to the issue in his report to the General Assembly and has appealed to the two sides to resume dialogue. He [the spokesman] said, while notng his reference to increase in tension in Jammu and Kahsmir, New Delhi reiterates that this is entirely due to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism from across the Line of Control.

### Minister: Delhi Will Control Drug Prices

*BK2509082894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Sep 94*

[Text] The chemicals and fertilizer minister, Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, has said the center will effectively control drug prices and there is no need for any apprehension that prices will go up in view of the GATT accord.

Talking to newsmen in Madras yesterday, he said the government might go in for more joint ventures for production of urea abroad with a 50-50 equity, under which the entire production will come to India.

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### Togo President Begins Visit; Meets With Sharma

*BK2709120994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The president of Togo, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, has condemned internal and international terrorism. Talking to our correspondent in New Delhi, General Eyadema called for efforts to root out terrorism. General Eyadema, who arrived in the capital yesterday, was given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. Describing India as the founder of Nonaligned Movement [NAM], he said both India and his country will work together to solve the issues relating to NAM countries and the region. General Eyadema called on President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. Dr. Sharma offered to share India's developmental experiences with the people of Togo.

### Talks With Russia Conclude on Upgrading MiG's

*BK2709140094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Air Force is poised to launched a major upgradation of its MiG series aircraft. The chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, told newsmen in New Delhi today that discussions in this regard have been completed with Russia, and scrutiny of supplies of high technology equipment is on. He said Russia is keen to have a long-term cooperation with India in this area.

### Sharma Fetes Eyadema, Notes Fundamentalism Threat

*BK2809051994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] New Delhi has regretted that some countries are supporting fundamentalism and narcoterrorism in pursuit of their narrow objectives. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the visiting Togo president, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, in the capital last night, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said such support will be detrimental to global peace and stability. Pointing out that the world is moving toward cooperation and common endeavors, Dr. Sharma said new threats like these will endanger the efforts. Welcoming Gen. Eyadema, who is the first Togo president to visit India, Dr. Sharma recalled the close and friendly links between India and Togo. The president also said that both the countries share common historical experience and the view that bilateral issues should be settled only through dialogue.

### Namibian Minister, Rao Discuss Defense Cooperation

*BK2809074194 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Namibian defense minister, Mr. Peter Mueshihange, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. The two leaders discussed various aspects of Indo-Namibian defense cooperation, including the training of Namibian defense personnel by India. They also reviewed the situation in the South African region. Mr. Rao expressed the hope that durable peace would soon return to Angola. Mr. Mueshihange conveyed greetings of President Sam Nujoma and handed over a letter inviting Mr. Rao to visit Namibia.

### 'Pakistan-Trained' Nationals Held for Espionage

*BK2609134594 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 23 Sep 94 p 3*

[Text] Two Pakistan-trained Indian nationals including a woman have been arrested by the Special Branch of the Delhi Police on charges of espionage and smuggling arms.

Jahan Ara Jahid, the 25-year-old woman, and Istkhar, both hailing from Mujaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh [UP], have been supplying secret documents concerning Indian military intelligence and installations to Pakistan, said Additional Commissioner, CID [Criminal Investigation Department], Mr R S Gupta, while addressing a press conference here on Thursday [22 September].

While Jahan Ara was nabbed from near the visa gate of the Pakistan High Commission on September 20, Istkhar was arrested from the Jama Masjid area on September 21, he said.

Mr Gupta said the police had suspicion on Jahan Ara for the past few days. They had received information that she would be coming to Pakistan High Commission on September 20. Subsequently, a trap was laid near the commission and she was arrested about 12.30 pm.

Her search revealed 44 photocopies of "restricted" material. A key bearing room No-207, Hotel Shan, Jama Masjid, was also seized from her. A raid of the hotel room resulted in the seizure of two hand-grenades of foreign make, said Mr Gupta.

The police said Jahan Ara had strained relations with her husband and she had been staying with her parents in Mujaffarnagar for the past few years. Her husband is currently in Saudi Arabia.

As per disclosures made by her, she was introduced to a Pakistan intelligence agent Fida Hussain by her acquaintance Zakir Baligh of Meerut in 1992. The trio travelled extensively in UP, Punjab and Rajasthan and gradually she was initiated into espionage work and collected tactical military intelligence papers.

Mr Gupta said she visited Pakistan thrice for further "briefings" and even after coming back, she regularly remained in touch with the contacts in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia over the phone. "At one time, her telephone bill mounted to Rs 16,000, [rupees]" he said.

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She and Istkhar, her accomplice from Mujaffarnagar, were promised "higher monetary rewards" for collecting hard military documents and organising "terrorist acts".

"She was basically acting as their communication channel in organising militant operations. Her contact in Pakistan was a Colonel Malik who had arranged a supply of 10 grenades through Kashmiri militants to be kept in her house at Mujaffarnagar. She had brought two grenades out of this consignment to Delhi which were to be handed over to Zakir Baligh," said Mr Gupta.

This is the third time in this year that Pakistan-trained militants hailing from Mujaffrarnagar have been nabbed by the Delhi police. In June, the arrest of Mr Mushtaq Ahmed alias Dr Junaid had led to the revelation that several militant organisations had been hiring youths from UP and training them in terrorism.

The Special Branch has been conducting search operations with a special emphasis on UP. "They have been hiring youths in UP to strike at some specified targets in the Capital. Interrogation of Jahan Ara will throw light on some important facts," said Mr Gupta.

Jahan Ara's third accomplice, Zakir is still absconding. According to the police, a person had accompanied Jahan Ara when she checked in at the hotel in Jama Masjid. "We are not sure whether this person was Istkhar or Zakir, but we will soon find out," said Mr Gupta.

### 14 Killed in Kashmir 'Militancy-Related' Incidents

*BK2709155594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 14 persons, including 10 militants, have been killed in militancy-related incidents since yesterday. Security forces also arrested seven militants and eight suspects during a search operation and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, the first batch of Rashtriya Rifles, the specially trained force to fight insurgency, has been deployed in Doda District. The corps commander sought the people's cooperation in thwarting attempts by militants to communalize the situation.

### Commission Announces State Election Dates

*BK2709141594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Election Commission has announced dates for assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, and Sikkim. While Goa and Sikkim assemblies will go to the polls on 16 November, voting in Karnataka will be held in two phases—on 26 November and 1 December. In Andhra Pradesh, polls will be held on 1 and 5 December. This was announced by the Election Commission in New Delhi today. The formal notification calling for elections in the states will be issued between the 17th of next month and 1 November. The announcement said since election process will be completed before 31 December, it [Election Commission] will, therefore, not insist on supply of identity cards to the voters in these states.

### Editorial on Finance, Commerce Ministries Clash

*BK2609142394 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 24 Sep 94 p 8*

[Editorial: "Hardly Edifying"]

[Text] The Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry are speaking in different voices about the desirability or otherwise of further liberalising the imports of consumer goods. At the recently concluded Economic Editors' Conference held in the Capital, the Finance Minister, Mr Manmohan Singh and the Commerce Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee—never the best of friends—as well as senior officials under them, did not exactly contradict one another on the issue of consumer goods imports. But both sides stuck to their positions, with occasional pot-shots being fired. The two positions could be summarised thus. As the Finance Secretary, Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia remarked, to keep customs duties on consumer goods as high as they are at present would imply providing excessive protection to domestic industrial units manufacturing such goods and this would go against the Government's trade policies. At the same time, he said that what would first have to be studied before duties on imported consumer goods are brought down, were the imports of such goods which had already taken place under the Commerce Ministry's special import licence (SIL) scheme. This will provide an incentive to exporters by allowing them access to concessional imports of particular consumer goods, especially electronic gadgets.

The note of caution notwithstanding, the Commerce Minister pointed out that since the SIL scheme was being relaxed every year, it would not be desirable to place the imports of more consumer goods under the open general licence (OGL) regime. Mr Mukherjee went on to add that if such imports were further liberalised, it could lead to closure of industries at home which, in turn, would mean that "tens of thousands" of workers would lose their jobs. The Commerce Secretary, Mr Tejendra Khanna, also referred to a remark made by the Finance Ministry's Chief Economic Adviser, Mr Shankar Acharya, that there was an antiexport bias in official policies to drive home the point that it was in fact North Block which had a bias against exporters. This is not the first time that Mr Khanna has expressed his displeasure with the ways of the Finance Ministry and he has gone on record criticising the decision to withdraw the international price reimbursement scheme (IPRS) which was meant to benefit exporters of engineering products. These slanging matches among different wings of the Government are hardly edifying. But, strangely enough, the Prime Minister would perhaps like such a situation

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to continue. For he can then emerge as the ultimate arbitrater with his unique "middle path".

### 'Hardened' U.S. Policy Seen on Nuclear Arms

*BK2709094394 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 24 Sep 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Why This Hardened Attitude?"]

[Text] Given that the Cold War has ended and the successor to the erstwhile Soviet Union, Russia, is trapped knee-deep in the mire of its own domestic troubles, it is quite difficult to imagine what could be influencing or frightening Mr. Clinton into making the U.S. nuclear policy even more strict. According to the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, the President approved this stricter nuclear policy last week and refused a proposal to reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles further. Not only this, he has also refused a proposal for the United States to commit itself to not being the first to use nuclear weapons, even in wars in which there is no danger of the opposing side using nuclear weapons. This clearly means that the United States will not remove its nuclear weapons deployed in various strategic positions in Europe, and also that the United States wants to retain the option of using nuclear weapons as a last resort. Obviously President Bill Clinton is religiously following the nuclear policy adopted by his predecessors, George Bush and Ronald Reagan; despite the advent of the new world order he is still beset by old apprehensions. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was always insistent upon the United States forsaking its massive "Star Wars" program before holding a historic summit to discuss curtailing the number of nuclear weapons and missiles possessed by both countries. U.S. President Ronald Reagan, however, bluntly refused and the peace-loving Gorbachev had no choice but to hold discussions exclusively under U.S. conditions. Later it was claimed that the hardened U.S. attitude was a result of its superior bargaining strength, and that the Soviet Union had to bow down for the talks. After Mr. Reagan, Mr. Bush was an ardent advocate of maintaining the status quo in matters relating to nuclear weapons. He continued to show an aggressive stance. Subsequently, U.S. policy planners were willing to restrict the number of nuclear weapons possessed by both countries—the United States and Russia—to just 3,000 each, but they failed miserably in their attempt. There is little possibility that Russia will reduce its nuclear arsenal voluntarily. These nuclear weapons stockpiles could destroy the entire world many times over. Hence the U.S. insistence on pilling up such a big stock of nuclear weapons is beyond comprehension.

Mr. Clinton's strict atomic policy once again proves the prudence of India's nuclear policy. India regards the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as discriminatory, and for this reason it has refused to sign the treaty. The United States wants to deal with India and Pakistan at the regional level, but India's argument is that no nuclear treaty such as the NPT can have a strictly regional base given the extensive range of nuclear weapons and missiles. How can this treaty be considered fair when it only prevents the "have-nots" from possessing nuclear weapons despite having the knowledge and capacity, while the treaty allows those who "have" to go on adding to their lethal stocks? Moreover, these "have" nations do not even have the decency to give their word that they will not be the first to use these weapons. India must learn a lesson from these developments and seriously reconsider its option of building nuclear weapons.

### Preventive Measures Launched Against Plague

*BK2709161794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Elaborate preventive measures to check the threat of plague have been initiated in several parts of the country. These include spraying of insecticides, improving sanitary conditions, screening of people coming from the affected areas, and ensuring uninterrupted supply of antibiotics. The Center [federal government] has permitted immediate import of five tonnes of tetracycline hydrochloride to manufacture tetracycline capsules. The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited will import the bulk drug.

The committee of secretaries reviewed the latest situation at a meeting in New Delhi this afternoon. Briefing newsmen, the health secretary said it was decided to step up efforts to create confidence among the people. He said adequate supplies of tetracycline and ampho antibiotics are available. He said the exodus from Surat has stopped. The health secretary said massive efforts are on to locate the families which have left Surat so that they can be screened for plague and given necessary treatment. Already 60 families have been located in Rajasthan. High-level meeting under the chairmanship of the Gujarat chief minister also reviewed the latest situation. The state government has stepped up the cleanliness drive and drug distribution in the affected areas. The cooperation minister, Mr Bhui Naik, who is supervising the operation, said that two rounds of cleanliness drive have been completed.

Two more deaths have been reported in Surat city today, taking the toll to 44. In Ahmedabad, none of the 17 cases of suspected pneumonic plague admitted in the communicable diseases hospital had been confirmed pneumonic plague after medical reports.

The Maharsahtra government is starting compulsory screening of people coming to the state from the affected areas. It has directed all the medical colleges in the state to equip themselves to carry out the plague tests. The state secretary for public health told newsmen in Bombay that seven cases of bubonic plague were detected in Bir district, while four suspected cases were admitted in Bhude of which one has died.

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The prime minister has directed the Delhi administration to launch a cleanliness drive to improve the sanitary standards in the capital to international levels. Mr. Narasimha Rao has suggested that voluntary organizations, housewives and citizens should be mobilized in this drive, particularly in the slums and unauthorized colonies.

In West Bengal, five persons have been identified as victims of plague in Calcutta and one in Malda. These persons came from Surat and have been hospitalized. Eleven suspected cases have been admitted to the infectious diseases hospital in the capital.

There are also reports of four suspected cases from Varanasi and two cases from Madras.

## Iran

### Velayati Praises Russia's Efforts for Tajikistan Peace

*LD2709163794 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati lauded Russia's peace efforts to help settle Tajikistan crisis.

In a message to his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, Velayati briefed him on the recent Tehran peace talks and negotiations over Tajikistan issue.

Velayati emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in restoring peace and stability to the region as well as to Tajikistan.

### Khamene'i Stresses Leading Role of IRIB

*LD2709164994 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, here Tuesday emphasized the leading role of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) and lauded IRIB's officials for their attempts to introduce changes in IRIB programs.

The leader also underlined the importance of observing the principles of guiding and unceasing struggle against enemies' campaign as well as cultural richness of IRIB programs.

The supreme leader who was addressing the IRIB's managing director, advisors and deputies further added that IRIB as an influential medium which could have an impact on behaviour, political outlook, religious beliefs and general culture of the people, must lead the society on the right direction.

Citing main responsibilities of IRIB on better dissemination of values of the Islamic revolution, the leader said one of the main duties of the IRIB is a continous campaign against massive propaganda of enemy mass media against the Islamic Republic of Iran. the leader added that in light of sincere and wise efforts of IRIB officials a tangible change has started in organization's programs both in terms of quality and quantity.

The supreme leader of the Islamic Republic also stressed on utilizing facilities of the IRIB in the best possible manner with full assistance of the government.

IRIB's Managing Director 'Ali Larijani reported to the leader on the process of IRIB's activities and current move in IRIB to upgrade the programs qualitatively and quantitatively.

### Velayati Meets With UK's Hurd in New York

*LD2709222794 Tehran IRNA in English 2045 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] United Nations HQ. (New York), Sept. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran conferred with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd here today on ways to remove the stumbling blocks in the way of the two countries' mutual ties.

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, briefing reporters after the meeting said Velayati criticized the UK and other Western states for their biased approach to the issue of terrorism and their support for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

Velayati said the unfounded propaganda of the U.K. against Islamic Iran is an obstacle to their healthy relations. He also voiced concern about harassment of Muslims and the vexatious bahavior toward them in certain European countries that at times deny them the liberty to practice their Islamic faith.

Hurd told the Iranian foreign minister that Britain considers Iran an important country in the region and looks forward to development of bilateral relations. He said Britain does not wish to publish hostile propaganda against Iran, and that his government admits that there are certain stumbling blocks on the way of the development of the relations between the two countries.

### U.S. Bosnian Arms Embargo Policy Viewed

*NC2709172694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 26 Sep 94*

[Unattributed commentary: "President Clinton's Talks With President Izetbegovic"]

[Text] President Clinton and President Izetbegovic held talks on the preparations that are made by the United States to have the arms embargo on the Muslims in Bosnia lifted. A U.S. official is reported to have said that the United States will submit a draft resolution to the UN Security Council on 15 October calling for lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims. The deceptive U.S. approach on the matter coincided with the siege of Sarajevo by the Serbian forces during the past 10 days,

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the suspension of aid to that city, and the failure of the air corridor for humanitarian aid because the Serbian forces fire on the UN transport planes. The UN High Commissioner's Office for Refugees has already disclosed that the food stocks in Sarajevo can last for two weeks at the most.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs have intensified their pressure on the UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. It seems that the NATO air attack on a Serbian tank in the restricted area near Sarajevo last Thursday has caused a crisis in the relations between the Serbs and the UN officials. However, it is a fact that the weakness of the Blue Berets has encouraged the Serbs to threaten the UN peacekeeping forces.

Meanwhile, the political observers have been confused by the effort that has been made to reduce the embargo on Serbia, which is the main supporter of the Bosnian Serbs. The political observers are convinced that lifting several sanctions against Serbia will pave the way for the removal of all the sanctions against that country in the near future. It will be recalled that lifting the embargo on Serbia depended on whether or not the UN observers would confirm that Serbia complies with the sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs. Several reports said that Serbian helicopters continue to fly in the no-fly zones above the areas that are under the control of the Bosnian Serbs. However, the UN Organization has remained inactive. Considering the existing conditions, political experts believe that the effort the UN observers will make to control whether or not Serbia complies with the sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs will be unimportant.

The conclusion that can be drawn from all that is as follows: The latest U.S. approach can only be described as a political maneuver. Considering its interests in the Balkan region, the United States has assumed a peace-loving approach. That indicates that it does not wish to lag behind in the rivalry between Russia, Britain, France, and Germany. Meanwhile, it must be noted that the U.S. officials themselves create obstacles against the realization of the U.S. claims on the matter. That brings to light the objective behind the U.S. approach.

### Paper Assails UN Vote To Ease Serbia Blockade

*LD2709221994 Tehran IRNA in English 2140 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—An English daily Tuesday commented on the United Nations Security Council's vote to ease the economic blockade of Serbia on the pretext that the Belgrade officials are no longer supporting the Serbs in Bosnia.

It is surprising that the U.N. is approaching the issue with such naivety, "TEHRAN TIMES" said adding that just the fact that Serbia has declared that it has closed its borders with Bosnia-Herzegovina does not necessarily mean that Serbia has stopped providing logistic and material support to the Serbs in Bosnia.

The Muslims in Bosnia expected that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization] would take immediate measures and increase its support for them, it said.

However, despite the OIC ultimatum in its recent meeting in Islamabad that it would unilaterally lift the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims and would arm the besieged Muslims of the Balkans against attacks on their cities, it has yet to take any practical measures in this regard, said the daily.

"OIC must show that it is serious about ending the plight of Bosnian Muslims", the daily said.

The fact that partisan members of the United Nations like Russia voted to ease the sanctions against Serbia destroys the legitimacy of the council's decision, the article said.

It underlined that, instead of engaging in such propaganda campaign, the Security Council should be more concerned with ending the ethnic crimes of the Serbs.

Otherwise, said TEHRAN TIMES, posterity will not forgive the impotent and destructive role it has thus far played.

### General Calls On Government To 'Step Down'

*MS2809093794 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 28 Sep 94 p 11*

[Report by Safa Haeri: "Iranian General Calls For End of Rule by Clerics"]

[Text] A leading Iranian general has called on the government of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to "step down and organise free elections". In an open letter to the Iranian nation, General Azizollah Amir Rahimi, also known as Amir Seyf, warned the ruling mullahs that the continuation of their present regime would lead to the "total annihilation of Iran and Islam".

Sources in Tehran said yesterday that the letter had had a profound impact on the Iranian armed forces and was likely to be endorsed by other generals and politicians.

General Rahimi, a former commander of the Iranian military police, on Monday called on Iran's leadership to "step down immediately" and allow free elections. Otherwise, he warned, the country could explode. The general's "open letter" to the Iranian people was distributed amid a growing rift between President Rafsanjani and the regime's spiritual leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

A month ago four generals, speaking on behalf of all Iranian armed forces, including the pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards) warned the "political leadership" (dominated by clerics) that Iran was in "danger from external assaults and internal disintegration".

After criticising some clerics' "insulting remarks" about the Iranian intelligentsia and exiles, he denounced the "mullahcracy" and called on the clerical leadership to:

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allow all exiled Iranians to return and hand back confiscated property;

allow and help all Iranian military officers ousted from the armed forces by the "zealots" to return to their duties;

end immediately the "regime of censorship, denunciation and the rule of the mullahs";

establish the rule of law;

allow free parliamentary and presidential elections, in which all can participate without interference from the Council of the Guardians or other clerical bodies.

Informed sources in Tehran said that General Rahimi's letter was written with the knowledge of General Zakir Nedzad, Ayatollah Khamene'i's adviser on military affairs and a former Chief of the Joint Staff of the Iranian armed forces.

Speaking by telephone from his residence in Tehran with The Independent, General Rahimi, 65, confirmed the existence of the letter and said it was his duty to do my best to save both my country and my countrymen from destruction and anarchy into which we are being led.

"One has to resist. One must know that (Iran) has not yet been turned into a total cgmetery. One must know that there is still place for life here, that no one must give up hope," the General added.

Asked if he was not afraid of being arrested, he replied confidently that "so far" he had not been harmed nor intimidated, "despite the fact that the content of the letter is known to the leaders.

"My duty is to speak up loud and clear so everyone everywhere, here and outside can hear me and come to my help. I'm a faithful Shia Muslim and I can tell you that nothing in our holy religion and holy Koran approves of what they (the clerical rulers) are doing to this country and this people", General Rahimi said.

### Ne'matzadeh Appointed To Head Merged Ministries

*LD2709215394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Following the passing of the law on the merging of the Ministries of Industries and Heavy Industries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has appointed Mr. Ne'matzadeh as supervisor [sarparast] of the Ministry of Industries. The text of the decree is as follows:

In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh: On the basis of principle 135 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and based on the law for the formation of the Ministry of Industries, approved on 13 September, and in view of my trust in you, I appoint your excellency as the supervisor of the Ministry of Industries. I expect the colleagues in that ministry to provide your excellency with sincere cooperation.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a letter, the president thanked Mr Mohammad Hadi Nezhad- Hoseynian for his services as minister of heavy industries. The text of the letter is as follows:

Your Excellency Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian: Now that the law regarding the merging of the Ministries of Industries and Heavy Industries has been presented for implementation, I find it necessary to thank you for your efforts and services during your tenure in the former Ministry of Heavy Industries and in the Council of Ministers during the five-year period of reconstruction. Your experience and your position make it necessary for the country to benefit constantly from your useful services in higher managerial posts. I hope that your excellency, who was one of the persons who suggested and agreed with the merging of the two abovementioned ministries, will render all assistance and cooperation to His Excellency Engineer Ne'matzadeh in the implementation of the new law.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Hungarian Envoy Severely Injured in Burglary

*LD2709194594 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—An unidentified man broke into the house of the Hungarian commercial attache in Tehran's Mahmudiyeh district, opposite Esteqlal Hotel, Monday night, neighbors said.

The intruder, apparently a burglar according to eyewitnesses, killed the diplomat's wife and injured him severely. The Hungarian diplomat is in critical condition, the report added.

The man managed to escape.

A source at the law enforcement forces said that a special team has been commissioned to follow the case. Details will follow.

## Pakistan

### Leghari: Energy Deal With U.S. 'Transparent'

*BK2709162694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] President Farooq Ahamd Khan Leghari said Pakistan has always emphasized the peaceful uses of scientific, nuclear, satellite, and rocket programs and desisted from indulging in an arms race. The president was inaugurating an international seminar on space technology sponsored by Space and Upper Atmospheric

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Research Corporation—SUPARCO—on the annual convention of the Pakistan Institute of Engineers in Lahore today.

The president said Pakistan wants to eliminate tension in the region, but others want to impose unfair conditions on it. He said Pakistan sincerely wants its neighbor India to spend its resources for the eradication of poverty and the well-being of the poor as done by Pakistan. Expressing regrets over the adoption of double standards on Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, the president said Western powers are ignoring India's massive weapons production as well as its nuclear program, which are apparently aimed at acquiring defense capabilities. He said Indian missiles pose a threat to the entire region and pressure should be exerted on India not to initiate a missile race. He said India should accept Pakistan's suggestions to eliminate the missile system. The president urged the scientists connected with SUPARCO to utilize their best capabilities in their respective fields. He also urged the federal and provincial government to keep unemployed engineers and technicians in a state of readiness to fulfill the immediate need of producing thermal power in the country. The president described as a major achievement the $4 billion private sector investment in the energy sector by the United States. He categorically stated that no compromise was made or condition accepted in the agreement. He said all matters were negotiated in an extremely transparent manner. The president said Pakistan has achieved apparent success in making comprehensive economic reforms, reducing the budget deficit, and increasing foreign exchange reserves. The present government is making efforts to reduce the inflation rate. He also stressed the need to improve the country's standard of education, whose motto should be to create experts in various fields. He said the Institute of Engineers can play its role in this connection.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari announced a five million-rupee grant for the Institute of Engineers. Engineers from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Kyrgyzstan are also attending the seminar.

### Afghan Envoy Summoned Over Detained Nationals

*BK2809025894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] The Afghan charge d' affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and a note about the Pakistani Government's concern over the continued detention of four Pakistani nationals in Afghanistan was handed to him. He was reminded that Pakistan had also sent a request earlier, demanding the immediate release of these Pakistanis, but no response has yet been given in this connection.

### President Demands Damages From Nawaz Sharif

*BK2809044994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has served a legal notice through his lawyer to Nawaz Sharif, claiming a damage of 4 billion rupees for leveling fabricated and groundless allegations against him, and asked him to pay the compensation within 15 days. The president's counsel has taken the position that the leader of the opposition, while addressing a news conference in Karachi, has leveled baseless allegations against the president, alleging that the president, the prime minister, and Member of National Assembly Asif Zardari [Bhutto's husband] earned huge profits by hoarding cotton in 1993, which created a cotton crisis in the market. Likewise, the leader of the opposition, during a news conference in Islamabad, distributed a pamphlet implicating these three personalities in the Mehran Bank scandal without any grounds and accusing the president of selling land to the Civil Aviation Department at very high prices.

### Nawaz Sharif, Others Barred From Entering Sindh

*BK2709155094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Sep 94*

[Text] The Sindh Government has banned Member of National Assembly [MNA] Mian Nawaz Sharif; Senator Ajmal Khattak; and MNA's Nawaz Khokhar, Abdus Sattar Lalika, Zahed Khan and Fakhr Imam; from entering the Sindh Province until 7 October. The order, which has been issued by the Sindh Home Department under the Sindh Maintenance of Law and Order Ordinance 1960, has become effective immediately. These people may appeal to the provincial government against this order.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1350 GMT on 27 September adds the following: "The travel restrictions were the first to be imposed on Sharif since he lost mid-term elections held in October last year. No reaction was immediately available'from the opposition. The two opposition parties had planned protest rallies in major cities for Thursday [29 September] to force Bhutto's resignation. The government earlier banned gatherings of more than five people in some cities to foil the opposition plan. The protests planned for Thursday were described as the third phase of Sharif's campaign to unseat Bhutto."]

### Opposition Leaders Detained

*BK2809114294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] Karachi, Sept 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of members of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), have been taken into custody throughout the southern Sindh province, the party said here Wednesday.

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The action follows a ban placed on six senior leaders, including Sharif and his ally the Awami National Party (ANP) chief Ajmal Khattak, from entering Sindh, one the eve of a series of nationwide PML rallies.

PML sources said some 600 supporters and lower-tier party leaders had been taken into custody across Sindh, considered a bastion of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Police officials were not available for comments.

Sharif and his allies maintain they will defy the ban and fly into Karachi Thursday to keep to their schedule of processions and rallies.

### Nawaz Sharif Vows To Defy Ban

*BK2809112694 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Sep 94 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 27—Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif announced on Tuesday to defy the ban imposed by the provincial government on the entry of opposition leaders in the province saying the ban was "illegal, immoral and unconstitutional".

"We will defy every unconstitutional, illegal, undemocratic, immoral and fascist ban and enter Sindh," Sharif said in a statement issued here today by his party Secretariat. "Nobody can stop us from visiting any part of Pakistan."

The opposition leader who is scheduled to lead a rally along with ANP [Awami National Party] Chief Ajmal Khattak in Karachi on Sept 29 said Khattak would also accompany him to foil this nefarious conspiracy to divide the nation.

He said it were precisely such anti-national, unconstitutional and undemocratic acts of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government against which he had launched the movement to topple the elected government.

Sharif said the success of his movement had shattered the nerves of the PPP government resulting in acts of violence against women and parliamentarians. "The PPP government has crossed all limits of decency and was yet against trying to blackmail the nation with the so-called Sindh card, which has already been rejected by the entire nation," he said.

The opposition leader said the Sindhis have entered the mainstream of Pakistani politics and such blackmailing could not be tolerated by the people. He was hopeful that this attempt would also backfire.

Referring to the planned investment of 4.0 billion dollars by the U.S. private sector in Pakistan's energy sector, Sharif said the Prime Minister has tried to barter away national sovereignty by selling out the nation's vital resources to foreigners.

He called upon the political forces to join hands with him to face the rising oppression.

### 'Powerful' Bomb Blasts Said To Kill 13 in Kashmir

*BK2809035094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 94*

[Text] In Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, 13 persons were killed in a series of powerful bomb blasts in muhajir [Indian immigrants] camps on Monday night. According to reports, two bomb explosions took place in two muhajir camps in Kotli Tehsil [revenue area] killing 11 persons on the spot and injuring several others. In another blast at Darot village, two members of a family were killed.

Reports indicate that the blasts were the handiwork of the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], which has been forcing the muhajirs to undergo arms training and infiltrate into India to carry out terrorist activities. The muhajirs have reportedly refused to bow to the ISI. The people held demonstrations and raised anti-Pakistan slogans immediately after the blasts.

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